Alberta

RECREATION AND PARKS

# A Study of the Social Setting
# in Recreation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Analysis of Data from the
1981 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation

Prepared by
Kenneth J. Fairbairn

Prepared for
Alberta Recreation and Parks
Recreation Development Division
Planning Support Branch

February 1985

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## A. Introduction

Recreational activities in which we engage take place in a variety of different social settings. These settings influence the type, the amount and the intensity of our recreational activities.

The 1981 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation sought information on:

i) the types of social settings in which the respondents had recreation.

ii) the importance of these settings to their recreational needs.

iii) the degree to which they depended on the settings and the other groups to organize their recreational activities.

In addition, respondents were asked questions about themselves which provided information about their socio-economic and demographic characteristics. This allowed profiles to be generated of those respondents most likely to find certain social settings important for their recreation. These profiles had a potential use as a basis for changing, planning and implementing recreational programs and policies.

## B. Objectives

The specific objectives of the report might be summarized as:

i) determining the relative importance of each social setting to the study's respondents.

ii) developing socio-economic profiles of three categories of importance (Not Important, Somewhat Important, Important) associated with each of six social settings -- yourself, your friends, your family, your fellow workers, your church group and other groups.

iii) establishing the three levels of dependence (Not at All, Somewhat, A Great Deal) by the respondents on each of the nine organizations and settings involved in recreation - community organizations, municipal departments, schools/universities, commericial facilities, private clubs, employers, friends, family and yourself.

iv) Establishing socio-economic profiles, where meaningful, for the levels of dependence on each organization.

v) Discussing the policy implications of the findings, in the light of recent literature.

## C. The Data

The data was derived from a mailed survey of 2425 respondents residing in Alberta in February 1981. This data consisted of counts, frequencies and percentages, which for the purpose of analysis were graphed, ranked and tested for chi-square associations.

The majority of the respondents were male, married, with at least one child. They were relatively young at a median age of 35 years, well-educated and engaged in an occupation requiring some skilled training. The modal income class was between $30,000 and $35,000 per annum and nearly half the households had two incomes. Most respondents were urban and had lived in Alberta for more than ten years, although they had occupied their present dwelling for considerably fewer years.

The sample appeared quite representative, drawing responses from people of all locations, ages and occupations.

## D. The Social Settings

### i) Participation in Social Settings

No setting attracted one hundred per cent of the respondents. The nearest to this was the 'friends' setting in which 90.5 per cent of the respondents participated. The 'family' and 'self' settings followed. Participation with 'fellow workers' and 'church members' was much lower and very few people said they participated with other groups beyond those listed.

Because of the large numbers participating with 'friends', 'family' and 'self', the profiles were much the same as that for the total sample and no real distinctions could be drawn. The 'self' setting had proportionately more single and more younger people. Effectively this meant that:

a) it was possible to blanket the province with, for example, new programs, and have a high rate of successful penetration.

b) it was also possible to select particular subprofiles within the general settings, such as a particular age group, and concentrate on the people within it.

c) it was not necessary to be unduly concerned about the participation rates in those settings.

People who participated in the 'work' setting were different, but not markedly different, from the previous settings. The proportion of males was the highest, incomes were generally higher and the group slightly younger. Occupations which did not allow for worker associations were of less importance here. The fact that less people were involved and the setting relatively distinct, meant that a narrower and more specific approach must be adopted to communicate with this group on its recreational needs and wants.

The 'church' setting was the most distinctive of all the settings. Numerically, the group was much smaller, and tended to be older, to have larger households and to be not so affluent as the others. The recreational activities of this group might, to a large degree, be determined by the church organization and therefore would require special access, programs and approaches.

ii) The Importance of the Social Settings

The majority of the respondents indicated that 'family' and 'friends' were the most important social settings to them. Lesser proportions felt these two settings were somewhat important to them. This meant that only 6.0 per cent of the respondents felt 'family' and 'friends' were not important to them.

About one quarter of the respondents felt that the 'self' setting was important to them and 43 per cent felt it was somewhat important. A third of the respondents indicated that the 'self' setting was not important to their recreation.

Forty-two per cent of the respondents indicated that the 'worker' setting was not important to them. The equivalent proportion for the 'church' group was slightly more than 65 per cent.

This suggested that the informal settings were the most important (attractive) to these respondents and the more formal situations, work and church, were the least important. In between these two groups was the involvement in the 'self' setting, which obviously related to the independence, interests and enthusiasm of the indivdual involved.

With similar numbers claiming participation, the profiles remained much the same here as described earlier. The 'friends' setting was important with single and younger people. The church attracted older people, families with children and the single parent.

### iii) Dependence on Groups and Settings to Organize Recreational Activities

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of dependence on nine organizations. Of these, the respondents depended most on themselves, family and friends to organize their recreation. Employers were depended on the least. Of the other groups, Private clubs, Schools/universities and Service groups had low levels of dependence. Municipal recreation agencies and Commercial facilities were not much higher, with dependency levels of 57 and 46 per cent, respectively.

The data showed that:

a) much recreation was organized on an informal basis.

b) many people could not depend on certain facilities as they might not have access to them.

c) municipalities and community organizations could do more.

d) of the socio-economic characteristics examined, there was no general association between dependence on an organization and personal background of the respondents.

## E. Conclusions

It was clear that most recreational activities took place within recognizable social settings. These settings influenced the nature and intensity of a person's recreational activity. This would be tempered by the social, occupational, geographical and demographical backgrounds of the actors involved. All in all, a social setting could be used as a vehicle for communication between recreational organizers and facilitators and the participating public.

Large numbers of people of all ages, occupational statuses and geographical locations, for example, participated in the informal social settings of friends, family and self. Large numbers also depended on these to organize their recreation activities. The worker and church settings had more restricted numerical involvement and different participants (in socio-occupational terms).

Some recommendations can now be made:

a) Organizations concerned with the provision and administration of recreational facilities should be cognizant of the social setting for which these are targeted.

b) In Alberta, people's participation with friends and family groups in recreational activities is widespread. Large numbers also participate by themselves. Programs can therefore be designed to blanket the whole province.

c) Certain subgroups within the settings can be targeted for consideration. The elderly, the housewives, the farmers and the single parents may be isolated.

d) Improving the people's participation in and dependence on special groups - work, church, employer, commercial facilities or schools - may prove difficult because of their vested interests in their own institutions.

e) Municipal recreation agencies and private commercial organizations need to be aware of the potential of various social settings to market recreational activities.

Finally, to enhance our understanding of people's participation and involvement in recreational activities, profiles of more specific settings using particular recreational facilities, should be developed.

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# PART ONE
# INTRODUCTION

"We may now be entering a different period of social evolution. Leisure, not work, may be becoming more significant in life's interests: leisure just as much as work, may be crucial to the development of self-identity and self-realization,"[1]

## 1.1 Introduction

The intention of this study is to report on the responses to questions of the 1981 Public Opinion Survey on Recreation conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks. In the survey, three questions sought information on three aspects of the social setting in which people participated. These three aspects were divided into several subcategories but, in general, they included the types of groups in which Albertans participated when they chose to have recreation, the importance of these settings to their recreational behavior, and their dependence on others to provide and structure their recreational activities. These three areas form the central core of this study.

On the basis of the responses to each of these three aspects, the study tries to determine the relative importance of each of the social settings in which Albertans engage and the importance of each of these to their recreation. The relative importance of each of nine institutional and social groupings is evaluated to determine the degree to which each is used to organize the recreation of Albertans.

Along with the responses related to these three aspects of recreation, there is a host of data detailing the social, economic and geographical backgrounds of the respondents. An additional objective

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[1] Handbook of Sports and Recreational Building Design; Volume One, Ice Rinks and Swimming Pools, edited by Geraint John and Helen Heard for The Sports Council Technical Unit for Sport, The Architectural Press, London, 1981, p. 2.

of the study is to use this information to construct socio-demographic profiles of the respondents and relate these to their responses on each of the subcategories within each of the three aspects of social setting. By these means, it is possible to identify "types" of profiles associated with each social setting and thereby make recommendations as to the requirements, goals and possible future behaviours of each segment of the population engaged in recreational activities.

The specific goals of the study are, therefore,

i to identify the nature of the data with which the study deals through an examination of the socio-economic characteristics of the sample of respondents;

ii a) to determine the social settings in which respondents are most likely to participate;
  b) to identify the socio-economic profiles of respondents in each social setting;

iii a) to determine relative levels of importance of each social setting for respondents' recreation;
  b) to establish the socio-economic profiles for each level of importance for each social setting;

iv a) to determine the relative importance of each of the institutions and social settings in organizing the respondents' recreation;
  b) to determine the levels of importance with which each institution or social setting is held by the respondents as being of consequence to their recreational activities;
  c) to establish the socio-economic profiles associated with each of the levels of importance; and

v to outline the findings and discuss their policy implications.

## 1.2 Limitations

An obvious limitation of this report is that the terms of reference, questionnaire construction and administration have been predetermined. The author of this report has interpreted and, in some cases, prejudged the thoughts and intentions of others. This is not a major restriction in this case, but it does tend to set the scope and limits of this study. Thus, the study is confined to the social setting of a person as it relates to the simple composition of various social groups - that is, whether or not a person engages with a particular group in recreation. It is not concerned with such details as his involvement with the groups, his various relationships with their members, the nature and order of that relationship or his perception of his and the group's worth in society and the impact this has on his recreation. Moreover, the study regards the group's function as fixed and the group as discrete; it is not concerned with the multi-faceted nature of groups (e.g., the family at church) or with the fact that people may belong to more than one group and have recreation with each. The study's concern then is only with superficial relations and not with their intensities or intricacies. It does, however, attempt to find the degree to which the respondents feel each of the social settings is important to their recreation and the degree to which they depend on various organizations and social settings to provide recreation services.

## 1.3 The Data

The data for this report is derived from the results of a survey conducted by Alberta Recreation and Parks of 4,700 randomly selected Albertans. A total of 2,425 people responded to the survey, representing 51.6% of the sample. The data used here is based on the responses to three questions (Table 1.1) and on the responses to the socio-occupational questions which form the personal information component of the survey. (Table 1.2)

TABLE 1.1 The Questions On Which this Report is Based

TABLE 1.2 Socio-Economic Questions

1. What is your sex? Male ☐ Female ☐

2. How old are you? ____________ years.

3. What is your marital status? Married ☐ Single ☐ Other ☐

4. (a) What is the highest level of education **you** have attained? (Please check one only.)

Elementary school (up to Grade 6) ............ ☐

Junior high school (up to Grade 9) ............ ☐

Part of senior high school ............ ☐

Completed senior high school ............ ☐

Part of a technical or vocational program ............ ☐

Completed a technical or vocational program ............ ☐

Part of a university degree ............ ☐

Completed university degree ............ ☐

Other (please describe) ............ ☐

________________________________________

(b) If you are married, what is the highest level of education that **your spouse** has attained? (Please check one only.)

Elementary school (up to Grade 6) ............ ☐

Junior high school (up to Grade 9) ............ ☐

Part of senior high school ............ ☐

Completed senior high school ............ ☐

Part of a technical or vocational program ............ ☐

Completed a technical or vocational program ............ ☐

Part of a university degree ............ ☐

Completed university degree ............ ☐

Other (please describe) ............ ☐

5. Did you work as a volunteer in the past 12 months?

Yes ☐ No ☐

6. (a) Did any members of your household work as volunteers in the past twelve months?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(b) If **yes**, how many members of your household worked as volunteers?

Please specify number of people.____________________

7. What is **your** occupation? (Please describe your work.)

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

**Please answer part A or part B of this question**

8. (a) In what village, town or city do you live?

Please specify____________________

(b) If you live on a farm or acreage, to what village, town or city is your mail addressed?

Please specify.____________________

9. Which of the following best describes your household? (Please check one of the following.)

Couple with children ........................................ ☐

Couple with no children. .................................... ☐

Single parent family ......................................... ☐

One or more unrelated single adults. ....................... ☐

Other (please explain)____________________ ☐

10. How many members of your household are in the following **age groups?** Please specify the **number of people** in each **age group**. (Do not forget to include yourself.)

| | How many? |
|---|---|
| Children under 6 years of age ............................ | ______ |
| Children between 6 and 17 ............................ | ______ |
| Adults between 18 and 29 ............................ | ______ |
| Adults between 30 and 49 ............................ | ______ |
| Adults between 50 and 64 ............................ | ______ |
| Adults 65 or over ............................ | ______ |

11 (a) What type of **dwelling** do **you** live in? (Check one box only.)

apartment ☐
house (single family dwelling) ☐
attached housing (duplex, townhouse, condominium) ☐
mobile home ☐
other (please specify) ☐

______________________________

(b) Do you own or rent your dwelling? Own ☐ Rent ☐

12. How long have you lived in your **present** dwelling?

less than 6 months ☐
6 months to 1 year ☐
1 to 2 years ☐
3 to 5 years ☐
6 to 10 years ☐
11 or more years ☐

13. How long have you lived in Alberta?

less than 6 months ☐
6 months to 1 year ☐
1 to 2 years ☐
3 to 5 years ☐
6 to 10 years ☐
11 or more years ☐

14. (a) How many people from your household received an income during the past 12 months?

Please specify the **number of people** _______

(b) Approximately, what was the **total amount of income** that you and members of your household received during the past 12 months?

less than $10,000 ☐
$10,001 to $15,000 ☐
$15,001 to $20,000 ☐
$20,001 to $25,000 ☐
$25,001 to $30,000 ☐
$30,001 to $35,000 ☐
$35,001 to $40,000 ☐
$40,001 to $45,000 ☐
$45,001 to $50,000 ☐
$50,001 to $55,000 ☐
$55,001 to $60,000 ☐
$60,001 or more ☐

Data from the answers to the three questions (Table 1.1) relate to three aspects of the social settings in which the respondents have recreation. The data is nominal, for the respondents were asked in every case to indicate whether or not they associated with a particular group (questions 5a and 9), and the extent to which they regarded the social setting as important to their recreation. This data can be presented as frequencies which will show the relative importance (numerically) of each category.

As such, the categories can also be ranked and subjected to statistical ranking procedures. It should be noted that the categories are not mutually exclusive. A respondent can signify that he participates with several groups and that he feels each is important to him. The study, then, is really concerned with showing the aggregate feeling towards social groups and not the specific preference of particular individuals. The classes are not mutually exclusive or exhaustive and, therefore, are not amenable to most of the statistical techniques used for nominal data (i.e., each aspect in question 5a, 5b and 9).

The data is treated in the following manner. For each of the three major questions, a verbal synopsis is given of the overall results. This is a statement comparing the importance of each group with the others, as indicated by the respondents. Profiles are then constructed for each of the subsections of each question. Chi square tests and where possible, rank orderings and correlations are conducted on the data. These profiles are based on all the socio-occupational variables. Comments are made on the results of the chi square testing and on the major findings, as the analysis proceeds. A summary concludes the examination of each question.

## 1.4 The Sample

A few observations are made on the nature of the sample at this point, because it will be referred to later when each of the socio-economic profiles are discussed. Thus, the representativeness of each profile in relation to the total sample can be determined.

Of the 4,700 questionnaires forwarded to residents in all parts of Alberta, 2,425 were returned. There was some variation in the quality of the responses, for not every questionnaire was fully answered and several questions were often answered twice (multiple responses). Missing cases for the socio-occupational data range from 0 to 191 and multiple responses from 2 to 20 for particular question items.

### 1.4.1 Demographic Characteristics

The 2,425 questionnaires were answered by 1,563 males and 827 females. There were 35 multiple responses. Valid responses of males outnumbered those of females by 1.9:1.0.

The highest proportion of the respondents were married (69.3%). Single people were next (17.7%), and the "other" category (possibly common law) followed (11.6%). "Multiple responses" and "missing" together comprised 1.3% of the total (Table 1.3).

The ages of the respondents (2,377 answered) ranged from 10 to 88 years - a very wide range of 78 years - with the mode being 28 years and the mean 39.4 years. The median value was 34.8 years, i.e., 50 percent were above and below approximately 35 years of age. The largest proportion of the respondents by age fell into the age category of 25-34 years, and the second largest proportion was 45-64 years of age. The other two major categories - up to 24 years and 35-44 years - were virtually even at 17.6% and 17.9% respectively. About 8.9% of the sample was over the age of 64 years.

## TABLE 1.3

### Marital Status

| | No. | % |
|---|---|---|
| Married | 1,681 | 69.3 |
| Single | 430 | 17.7 |
| Other | 282 | 11.6 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey.

The questionnaire also asked the respondents to indicate the household composition. In this way, dwellings could be categorized into five types. Table 1.4 shows that the majority of respondents lived in households with children (54.3%), but that there were substantial numbers of households without children. Almost one quarter of the sample population were couples without children.

The respondents' households were also broken into six groups on the basis of the ages of the residents in each household. The categories were not mutually exclusive in that it was possible for a dwelling to have young, old and middle aged people residing within it (Table 1.5). All members of the sample responded to this section. The following conclusions may be drawn from the responses:

i) There is a predominance of households without children under 6 years of age (79.0%) and/or between the ages of 6 and 17 years.

ii) The majority of households with children under the age of 6 years have one child only (60.7%).

iii) There are more households with children between 6 and 17 years of age than under 6 years.

iv) About 82% of the households with children between 6 and 17 years have one or two children.

v) Households with and without adults between 18 and 29 years of age are almost split evenly.

vi) Forty-nine percent of the households with an adult between 18 and 29 years of age have two adults, 41.7% have one adult and the remainder more than two.

vii) There are proportionately fewer households with adults in the upper age categories.

viii) Of the households with adults between 30 and 49 years of age 64.6% have two adults, 40.7% have one and 51.8% have no adults in this category.

ix) Only 21.1% of the total households have at least one adult between the ages of 50 and 64 years and 11.0% had at least one adult over 65 years.

## TABLE 1.4

### Household Type by Occupants

| Household Type | Per Cent |
|---|---|
| With children | 48.8 |
| Single parent | 5.5 |
| Couple, no children | 24.5 |
| One or more unrelated adults | 17.5 |
| Other | 3.7 |

## TABLE 1.5

### Households by Age

| | Number | Per Cent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| With children less than 6 years | 509 | 20.9 |
| With children 6-17 years | 773 | 31.8 |
| With adults 18-29 years | 1,205 | 49.7 |
| With adults 30-49 years | 1,107 | 45.6 |
| With adults 50-64 years | 511 | 21.1 |
| With adults greater than 65 years | 266 | 11.0 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## 1.4.2 Economic Characteristics

There are nine categories of levels of educational attainment into which respondents can be placed (Table 1.6). (N.B. Educational attainment of spouses was also asked but the results have not been recorded here as they are not relevant at this stage of the discussion. The question was answered by 2,391 respondents.) The two largest proportions occur in the "completed technical" (20.5%) and "completed senior high" (17.9%) categories. When groups are combined, the category including those with some or all of a senior high school education form the highest proportion (31.7%), those with some or a completed technical education represent the second highest proportion (29.0%), and those with some or a completed university education make up the third highest grouping (26.0%).

TABLE 1.6

Education of Respondents

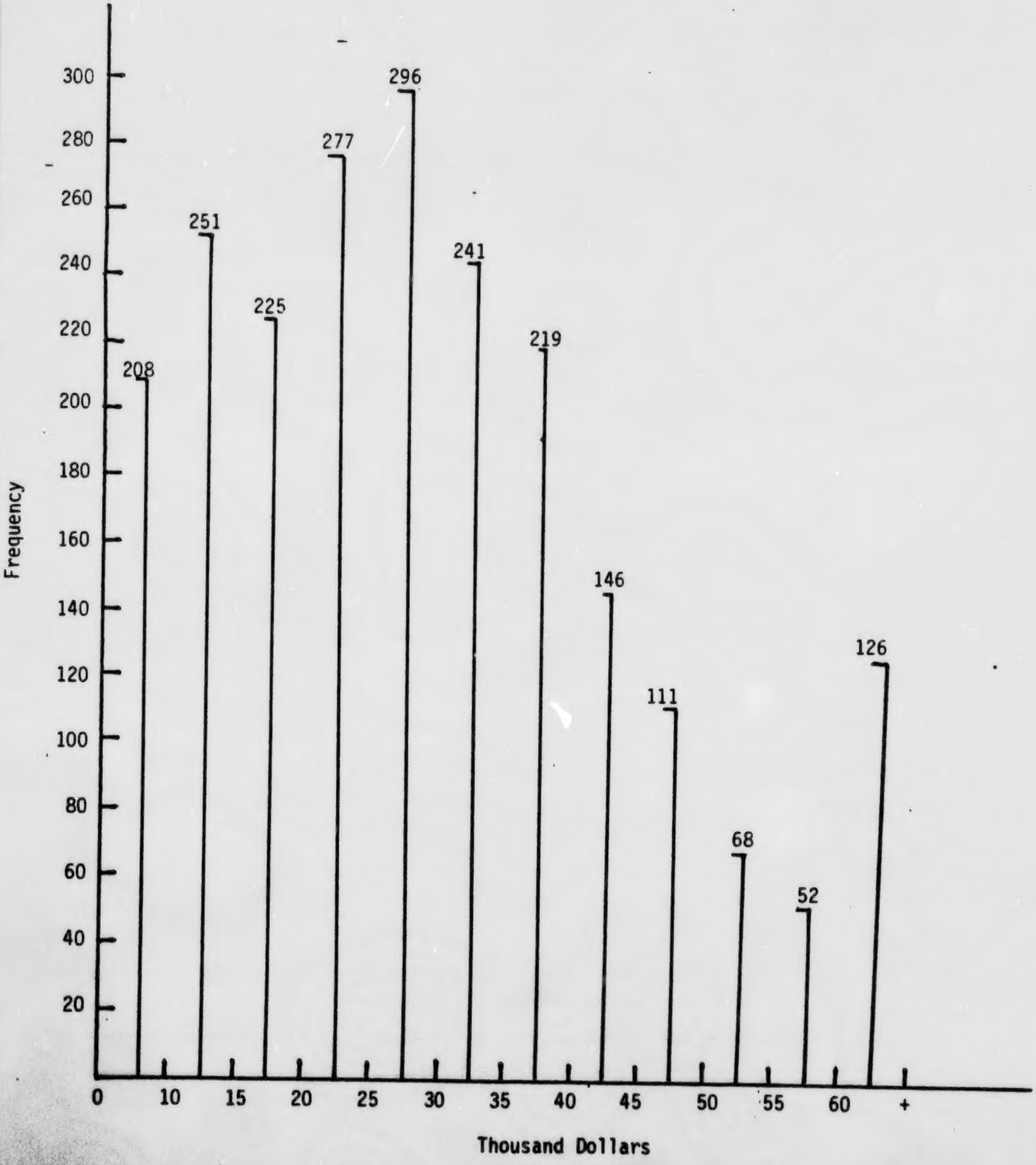
| | No. | Percentage | Total % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elementary | 73 | 3.1 | 12.1 |
| Junior high | 214 | 9.0 | |
| Part senior high | 330 | 13.8 | 31.7 |
| Senior high | 429 | 17.9 | |
| Part technical | 203 | 8.5 | 29.0 |
| Completed technical | 490 | 20.5 | |
| Part university | 218 | 9.1 | 26.0 |
| Completed university | 403 | 16.9 | |
| Other | 31 | 1.3 | |

VALID RESPONSES = 2,391

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

Diagram 1.1

Distribution of Income Earners



The education levels translate into the occupational status profile of the respondents to some extent. A ranking in order of numerical importance is given in Table 1.7. Occupations requiring some skilled training tend to dominate although no one occupational category tends to stand out. The sample, at least as it relates to occupational status, seems to have produced a fair cross-section of the wider population's occupational structure. The relatively high position of the three categories - housewives, retired and students - should be noted. These three represent 20.5% of the response to the question or 18.8% of the total sample.

The questionnaire also asked for the number of income earners per household which, in a crude way, indicated the money available for leisure and recreation - an indicator of the propensity to have recreation. The largest number of households (49.9%) had two income earners; 33.2% were one income earner households and 9.9% had three people earning income within the household. More important, however, was the total income each household generates per annum. Diagram 1.1 depicts this information. Over half of the households (56.6%) earned less than $30,000 per annum. Less than 10.0 percent (9.4%) earned under $10,000; while 11.1% earned more than $50,000 per annum. The modal class had an income of $30,000 - $35,000 per annum.

### 1.4.3 Geographical

Most people's residential location can be classified as urban, with the majority living in towns or cities, (89.6%). Farms or acreages, comprising 245 households, make up the remainder. Thus, the study deals with a population which, in most instances, has greater access to many recreational resources and social settings than others.

The majority of the sample population has resided in Alberta for more than 11 years (73.6%). Therefore, a substantial proportion of people may be considered "recent" arrivals and may be expected to engage in recreational activities with social groups different from the longer term residents.

## TABLE 1.7

### Rank of Employment Structure

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professionals | 14.0 |
| 2 | Skilled trades | 10.6 |
| 3 | Housewives | 9.5 |
| 4 | Skilled clerical | 8.9 |
| 5 | Middle management | 8.1 |
| 6 | Retired | 7.6 |
| 7 | Semi-skilled clerical | 5.5 |
| 8 | Semi-skilled trades | 4.6 |
| 9 | Farmers | 4.5 |
| 10 | Unskilled labor | 4.5 |
| 11 | Semi-professionals | 4.5 |
| 12 | Technicians | 4.1 |
| 13 | Students | 3.4 |
| 14 | Supervisors | 2.8 |
| 15 | Unskilled clerical | 2.3 |
| 16 | High management | 1.9 |
| 17 | Foremen | 1.4 |
| 18 | Other | 1.0 |
| 19 | Self-employed professional | 0.6 |
| 20 | Farm labor | 0.3 |

VALID RESPONSES = 2,233

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

Of the remainder, 2.4% has been in the province less than a year, 7.6% less than two years and 17.1% less than 5 years. A total of 627 or 26.4%, has been here less than ten years.

### 1.4.4 House type

The 2,393 respondents to the question on the type of dwelling they inhabit may be grouped into five categories. Most lived in single family dwelling units (67.2%), 13.4% lived in apartments and 14.3% in an attached house of some kind. Slightly over 4.0% lived in mobile homes. The majority (69.8%) owned their own homes; the remainder rented.

As the home ownership might imply, the sample population can be described as residentially stable. Over 35 per cent (35.8%) have lived in their present residence for more than six years and 57.0% more than three years. On the other hand, 21.2% have resided at their present location for less than a year - reflecting the levels of mobility that the province experienced during that period. It will be presumptious to suggest that, given the very broad range of recreational activities under consideration here, length of residency means greater involvement in recreational activity while short-term residential occupation means non-involvement.

### 1.4.5 Summary

Although there is a fair degree of variation, the typical respondent is a male aged between 25 and 34 years and is married with at least one child. He is a fairly well-educated individual who commands a reasonable salary from employment requiring a high degree of skilled training. He is most likely to live in a single family dwelling which he owns, in one of Alberta's large towns or cities. He and his family may not have lived in his dwelling that long but they have resided in the province for more than a decade. There is a high probability that his wife or some other member of the family unit is also gainfully employed.

# ANALYSIS COMPONENT

## 2.1 Introduction

This section of the report is an analysis of the responses to each of the three questions reproduced in the introductory section. .

Question 5a) enables the development of profiles for six groups of participants on the basis of those with whom they participated and the socio-economic information provided by the respondents. It should be noted again that the groups are not mutually exclusive. A person can contribute to the aggregate profile of each subcategory, since he may potentially participate in more than one social setting. After a synopsis of the general findings, each of the six profiles will be developed and discussed.

Table 2.1 combines the aggregate responses to the six subcategories of question 5a). A number of points can be made from the information contained in this table:

i) No social setting shows a 100% participation rate.

ii) The highest rate of participation is with 'friends' - a social setting which accounts for over 90 percent of the respondents.

iii) The three major social settings (in terms of participation) are: with friends (90.5%), with family (87.9%) and participation by oneself (73.3%). 'Friends' and 'family' are virtually of similar standing.

iv) A little more than half of the respondents (52.7%) participate with their fellow workers. The work place thus forms an important social setting and creates links with recreation.

v) Participation with church groups ranks last (apart from the general, all-inclusive 'other' category). This may be a reflection of: a) the absence of religious affiliations among the sampled group; b) the fact that many religious organizations fail to provide suitable recreational facilities; and c) the fact that people find their needs served better by other recreational social settings.

vi) Groups entered by respondents in the 'other' category have only small numbers associated with them (4.8%). These include community leagues, benevolent associations and volunteer groups.

vii) There is no evidence about people not participating in any social setting.

### TABLE 2.1

### Synopsis of Responses to Question (5a) "With whom do you participate.....?"

| Social Setting | Yes | | No | | Other (Missing/ Multiple) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N |
| By yourself | 1,778 | 73.3 | 492 | 20.3 | 154 |
| With friends | 2,195 | 90.5 | 132 | 5.4 | 98 |
| With family | 2,131 | 87.9 | 214 | 8.8 | 80 |
| With fellow workers | 1,275 | 52.7 | 936 | 38.6 | 214 |
| With church members | 556 | 22.9 | 1,635 | 67.4 | 234 |
| Some other group | 116 | 4.8 | 49 | 2.0 | 2,260 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## 2.2 Profiles of Respondents' Participating In Each Social Setting.

Each of the social settings will be discussed in the order of its importance as indicated by the level of participation associated with it.

### 2.2.1 Participation with Friends

Two thousand one hundred and ninety-five (2,195) respondents indicated they participated with friends; 132 did not and 98 gave unacceptable responses (Table 2.1).

#### a) Demographics

As might be anticipated from the discussion of the total sample, males outnumber females by almost 2 to 1 and the great majority of the respondents are married (Table 2.2). The single most important age category is 25-34 years and the majority (over 50 percent) are less than 35 years of age. About 7 percent are elderly people.

A chi-square test was used to determine if there is a difference, by age, between those who participated with friends and those who did not. (Table 2.2A shows the data on which the test was made. Note the discrepancy in the figures between this and Table 2.1. This is due to certain invalid responses to some of the age questions.) The following hypotheses were tested:

$H_0$: There is no statistical difference between the "yes" and "no" groups and their distribution of ages.

$H_I$: There is a statistical difference between the "yes" and "no" groups on the basis of their age distributions.

According to the chi-square test, the second hypothesis is the "correct" one; therefore, there is a statistical difference between the group who responded positively to this question and those who made a negative response (at least in terms of their age structures), i.e., the two groups are different.

## TABLE 2.2

### Demographic Characteristics of Persons Participating with Friends

| Sex | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 1,437 | | 66.3 |
| Female | 730 | | 33.7 |
| | | 2,167 | |
| **Marital Status** | | | |
| Married | 1,520 | | 70.2 |
| Single | 411 | | 19.0 |
| Other | 234 | | 10.8 |
| | | 2,165 | |
| **Age** | | | |
| To 24 | 366 | | 17.0 |
| 25 - 34 | 759 | | 35.2 |
| 35 - 44 | 397 | | 18.4 |
| 45 - 64 | 484 | | 22.5 |
| 65 + | 149 | | 6.9 |
| | | 2,155 | |
| **Spouse's Education** | | | |
| Up to and junior high | 192 | | 12.5 |
| High school | 622 | | 40.5 |
| Technical | 395 | | 25.7 |
| University and other | 327 | | 21.3 |
| | | 1,536 | |

## TABLE 2.2 (contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children less than 6 | | | |
| None | 1,719 | | 78.3 |
| 1 | 290 | | 13.2 |
| 2 | 156 | | 7.1 |
| 3 and more | 30 | | 1.4 |
| | | 2,195 | |
| Children 6 - 17 | | | |
| None | 1,482 | | 67.5 |
| 1 | 305 | | 13.9 |
| 2 | 277 | | 12.6 |
| 3 and more | 131 | | 6.0 |
| | | 2,195 | |
| Adults 18 - 29 | | | |
| None | 1,054 | | 48.0 |
| 1 | 476 | | 21.7 |
| 2 | 558 | | 25.4 |
| 3 and more | 107 | | 4.9 |
| | | 2,195 | |
| Adults 30 - 49 | | | |
| None | 1,098 | | 50.0 |
| 1 | 423 | | 19.3 |
| 2 | 671 | | 30.6 |
| 3 and more | 3 | | 0.1 |
| | | 2,195 | |
| Adults 50 -64 | | | |
| None | 1,729 | | 78.8 |
| 1 | 244 | | 11.1 |
| 2 | 221 | | 10.1 |
| 3 and more | 1 | | .0 |
| | | 2,195 | |

TABLE 2.2 (contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adults 65 + | 2,002 | | 91.2 |
| 1 | 129 | | 5.9 |
| 2 | 62 | | 2.8 |
| 3 and more | 2 | | 0 |
| | | 2,195 | |
| **House Type by Occupants** | | | |
| With children | 1,087 | | 50.2 |
| No children | 508 | | 23.5 |
| Single parent | 105 | | 4.8 |
| Unrelated and other | 407 | | 21.5 |
| | | 2,166 | |
| **House Size by People** | | | |
| One | 243 | | 11.3 |
| Two | 673 | | 31.4 |
| Three | 402 | | 18.7 |
| Four | 476 | | 22.2 |
| Five | 215 | | 10.0 |
| Six and more | 137 | | 6.4 |
| | | 2,146 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.2A

### The Age Structure of Those Who DO and Those Who DO NOT Participate with Friends

| | Age | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Up to 24<br>N % | 25-34<br>N % | 35-44<br>N % | 45-64<br>N % | 65 and over<br>N % | Total<br>N |
| Yes | 366(17.0) | 759(35.2) | 397(18.4) | 484(22.5) | 149(6.9) | 2,155 |
| No | 9 (7.0) | 29(22.7) | 23(18.0) | 40(31.3) | 27(21.0) | 128 |
| Total | 375(16.4) | 788(34.5) | 420(18.4) | 524(23.0) | 176(7.7) | 2,283 |

$X^2 = 48.17$ df = 4 $p = 0.01$

Educational attainment of the respondents' spouses are quite high, with 47.0 percent of them attempting some kind of education beyond high school.

A very low proportion of the households (21.7%) have children under the age of 6 years and this holds for households with children between 6 and 17 years (32.5%). It cannot be discerned from this data which households are with or without children in these age groups. It is known though that 55.0% of the households which responded positively to this question have children (Table 2.2). This accords almost exactly with the larger sample. While no households are without an adult, almost half are without either an adult between 18 and 29 years or between 30 and 49 years. Over three quarters are without a person between 50 and 64 years and in 8.7 percent of the households there resides at least one elderly person. A substantial number of households consist of unrelated adults and married couples without children.

The two-person household is the major single category of household occupance but households with three and more persons predominate (57.3 percent). The one-person household is also quite prominent in this category of social setting.

### b) Economic

Compared to that of the larger sample, the education of the respondents is almost identical. However, fewer people have completed Junior High School than in the total sample, and proportionately more have completed or attempted some university education. High school and technical levels of educational attainment are virtually identical (Table 2.3).

The same can be said of the ranking of occupational importance (Table 2.4). Apart from a few minor details, the rankings are identical and none of the changes are significant enough to warrant further statistical comparison. (Compare Table 2.4 with Table 1.7.)

## TABLE 2.3

## Economic Characteristics of Respondents "Friends"

| Education | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to junior high | 227 | | 10.5 |
| High school | 675 | | 31.1 |
| Technical | 644 | | 29.7 |
| University and other | 626 | | 28.8 |
| | | 2,172 | |
| **Income Earners** (per household) | | | |
| 0 | 7 | | 0.3 |
| 1 | 678 | | 32.5 |
| 2 | 1,041 | | 49.9 |
| 3 and more | 359 | | 17.2 |
| | | 2,085 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.4

## Rank of Employment Structure for Respondents Who Recreate with Friends

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professionals | 14.7 |
| 2 | Skilled trades | 10.9 |
| 3 | Housewives | 8.8 |
| 4 | Skilled clerical | 8.7 |
| 5 | Middle management | 8.3 |
| 6 | Retired | 5.9 |
| 7 | Semi-skilled clerical | 5.6 |
| 8 | Semi-professional | 4.8 |
| 9 | Semi-skilled trades | 4.6 |
| 10 | Farmers | 4.5 |
| 11 | Unskilled labor | 4.3 |
| 12 | Technicians | 4.2 |
| 13 | Students | 3.6 |
| 14 | Supervisors | 2.8 |
| 15 | Unskilled clerical | 2.2 |
| 16 | High management | 2.0 |
| 17 | Foremen | 1.4 |
| 18 | Other | 0.9 |
| 19 | Self-employed professional | 0.7 |
| 20 | Farm labor | 0.3 |

VALID RESPONSES 2,040

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

Two income households form the major single group here but two and more income households are in the majority (67.1%). The one income households account for about one third of the total. If Diagram 2.1 here is compared with Diagram 1.1 on the distribution of income for the total sample, it can be seen that the figures differ only slightly and the general shape is the same. Of the 2,043 reporting, 54.6 per cent of the households earned less than $30,000 per annum and 11.6 percent above $50,000.

### c) Geographical

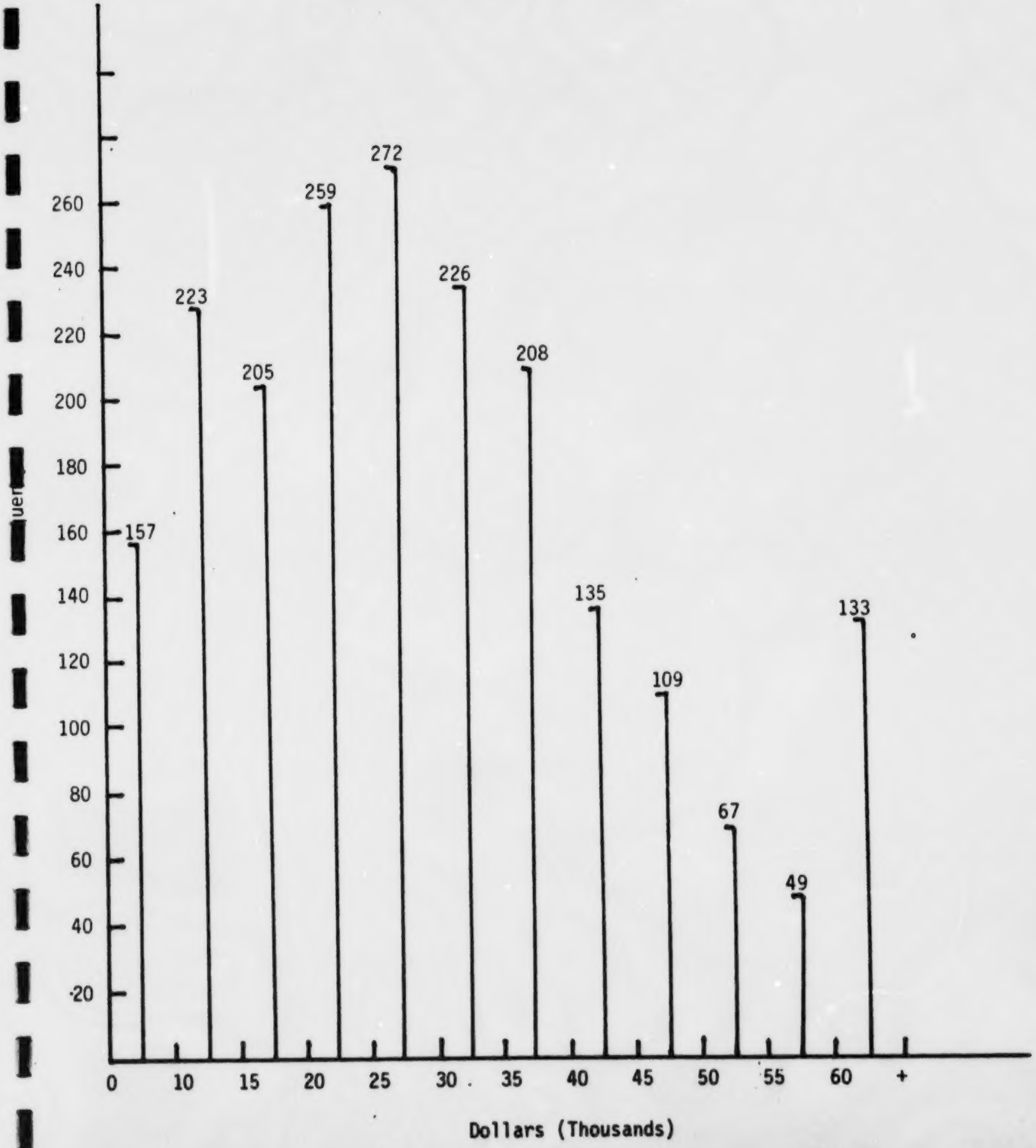
Again, as would be expected from the observations on the sample, by far the majority of the respondents are urban dwellers and most live in Calgary and Edmonton (Table 2.5). Smaller towns and rural areas are the residential locations of slightly more than one quarter of the respondents. An almost identical proportion (with the sample) have resided in the province for 11 years or more, which again suggests that there is a fairly high proportion of "recent" arrivals. Quite a substantial number have been here less than one year.

### d) Housetype

Table 2.6 shows that most of the respondents reside in a detached house (66.8%), while attached houses and apartments together form a smaller and much less significant category. The majority own their homes, about one-third preferring or having to rent. Less than 22 percent of the respondents have resided at their present location for less than a year. The major category here is the 1-5 year group, while only a third of the respondents have resided at their present address for more than six years.

Diagram 2.1

Distribution of Income for those Respondents Participating with Friends



## TABLE 2.5

## The Geographical Aspects of Respondents Who Recreate with Friends

| Location | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 1,906 | | 89.4 |
| Rural | 225 | | 10.6 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| Metro. area | 1,257 | | 58.6 |
| Small city | 298 | | 13.9 |
| Other | 589 | | 27.5 |
| | | 2,144 | |
| Length of Residence in Alberta | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 53 | | 2.5 |
| 1-5 years | 328 | | 15.2 |
| 6-10 years | 211 | | 9.8 |
| 11 years & more | 1,568 | | 72.5 |
| | | 2,160 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.6

## Housetype Characteristics of Respondents Who Participate with Friends

| Type of Residence | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 297 | | 13.7 |
| House | 1,451 | | 66.8 |
| Attached house | 320 | | 14.7 |
| Other | 104 | | 4.8 |
| | | 2,172 | |
| **Occupancy Status** | | | |
| Own | 1,487 | | 69.3 |
| Rent | 658 | | 30.7 |
| | | 2,145 | |
| **Length of Residence in Present Dwelling** | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 477 | | 22.0 |
| 1-5 years | 954 | | 44.0 |
| 6-10 years | 285 | | 13.1 |
| 10+ years | 452 | | 20.8 |
| | | 2,168 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

### 2.2.2 Summary

i) Because they constitute a major proportion of the sample, people who participate with friends are much like the sample as a whole.

ii) The "typical" person participating with friends is male, married, relatively young and has one or two children.

iii) High educational attainment is reflected in his occupational status, home ownership and earned income. There is a high probability that his household has more than one income.

iv) The "typical" respondent is an urban dweller, probably living in Calgary or Edmonton, and while he may not have resided at his present address that long, he is a long-term resident of the province.

v) Despite the foregoing observations, there are several subprofiles within the general scenario. These stem from the age, sex and income variations within the general group.

vi) The group not participating with friends is different from that which does.

### 2.2.3 Participation with Family

Participation with family members is the second most important social setting in which people have recreation. There were 2,131 positive respondents to this categorization in the questionnaire and only 214 replied negatively. Eight responses were invalid. These figures again show that most people feel the family is important in recreation, regardless of their social circumstances. The profile shown here will, therefore, be very much like the preceding one.

#### a) Demographics

Of those who indicated their participation with their family, 1,395 were males and 706 were females, establishing the usual 2:1 relationship (Table 2.7). By far the greater majority were married, singles again comprising less than 20 percent of the total. In age, the modal category was still the 25-34 year age group. Nearly 50 percent of the respondents were less than 35 years and only 7.4 percent were considered elderly.

A chi-square test was run to determine if there is a difference, at least in age structure, between those who participate with their families and those who do not (Table 2.8).

$H_o$: there is no difference between 'Yes' and 'No' groups on the basis of their age distribution.

$H_1$: there is a difference between the two groups.

The table value of $X^2$ at 0.01 level of significance is 13.28. This provides the grounds for the rejection of the null hypothesis and the acceptance of the research hypothesis -- that there is a difference between the two groups. It should be noted that it is not a great difference and that a hypothesis of no difference would be accepted at a significance level of 0.001 (table $X^2$ = 18.46). This suggests that, at least on the basis of age, the two groups are drawn from the same population and are not distinct from each other; therefore, it is not possible to learn much more about the particular types.

## TABLE 2.7

## Demographic Characteristics of Persons Participating with Family

| Sex | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 1,395 | | 66.4 |
| Female | 706 | | 33.6 |
| | | 2,101 | |
| **Marital Status** | | | |
| Married | 1,573 | | 74.7 |
| Single | 313 | | 14.9 |
| Other | 219 | | 10.4 |
| | | 2,105 | |
| **Age** | | | |
| To 24 | 326 | | 15.6 |
| 25-34 | 717 | | 34.3 |
| 35-44 | 404 | | 19.3 |
| 45-64 | 490 | | 23.4 |
| 65+ | 154 | | 7.4 |
| | | 2,091 | |
| **Spouse's Education** | | | |
| Up to and junior high | 210 | | 13.2 |
| High school | 636 | | 39.8 |
| Technical | 417 | | 26.1 |
| University and other | 333 | | 20.9 |
| | | 1,596 | |

TABLE 2.7 (contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children less than 6 | | | |
| None | 1,642 | | 77.1 |
| 1 | 300 | | 14.1 |
| 2 | 160 | | 7.5 |
| 3 and more | 29 | | 1.3 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| Children 6-17 | | | |
| None | 1,389 | | 65.2 |
| 1 | 320 | | 15.0 |
| 2 | 287 | | 13.5 |
| 3 and more | 135 | | 6.3 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| Adults 18-29 | | | |
| None | 1,047 | | 49.1 |
| 1 | 446 | | 20.9 |
| 2 | 544 | | 25.5 |
| 3 and more | 94 | | 4.4 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| Adults 30-49 | | | |
| None | 1,039 | | 48.8 |
| 1 | 402 | | 18.9 |
| 2 | 686 | | 32.2 |
| 3 and more | 4 | | 0.1 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| Adults 50-64 | | | |
| None | 1,669 | | 78.3 |
| 1 | 234 | | 11.0 |
| 2 | 227 | | 10.7 |
| 3 and more | 1 | | |
| | | 2,131 | |

TABLE 2.7 (contd.)

| | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adults 65+ | | | |
| None | 1,936 | | 90.8 |
| 1 | 122 | | 5.7 |
| 2 | 71 | | 3.3 |
| 3 and more | 2 | | 0.1 |
| | | 2,131 | |
| **Housetype by Occupants** | | | |
| Couple with children | 1,107 | | 52.6 |
| Couple no children | 529 | | 25.1 |
| Single parent | 105 | | 5.0 |
| Unrelated adults and other | 362 | | 17.2 |
| | | 2,103 | |
| **House Size by People** | | | |
| One | 184 | | 8.8 |
| Two | 666 | | 31.8 |
| Three | 405 | | 19.3 |
| Four | 485 | | 23.2 |
| Five | 219 | | 10.5 |
| Six and more | 135 | | 6.4 |
| | | 2,094 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.8

## The Age Structure of Those Who DO and DO NOT Participate with Family

| | Age<br>Up to 24<br>N % | <br>25-34<br>N % | <br>35-44<br>N % | <br>45-64<br>N % | <br>65 and +<br>N % | <br>Total<br>N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 326(15.6) | 717(34.3) | 404(19.3) | 490(23.4) | 154(7.4) | 2,091 |
| No | 46(22.0) | 71(34.0) | 23(11.0) | 45(21.5) | 24(11.5) | 209 |
| Total | 372(16.2) | 788(34.3) | 427(18.6) | 535(23.2) | 178(7.7) | 2,300 |

$X^2 = 16.03$. df = 4 P = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

Spouses' educational attainments are again quite high, with nearly half (47.0%) continuing beyond high school level.

The household age structures of the respondents reveal again the high proportions of "no observations" associated with each of the age categories. Thus, 77.1 percent of the households do not have children under the age of six and 65.2 percent of the households do not have children between 6 and 17 years. Even so, households with children predominate (57.6 %). About half of the households are without people aged 18-29 and 30-49 years. However, over three quarters of the households are without people 50-64 years and over 90 percent do not have elderly persons. Thus, there are proportionately more households with persons in the lower middle age ranges.

Two-person households form the largest single category (31.8%) but when categories are combined, households with three and more people predominate (59.4%). Many of these households are likely to have children.

b) Economic

Except for some minor details, the percentages of the various levels of educational attainment of the respondents follows those for the total sample and for the previous social setting (friends). There is much the same proportionate breakdown between the categories, with high school education forming the majority case. Education beyond high school (i.e., technical and university education) still predominates and consists of 57.5 percent of the sample.

From the number responding positively to this social setting (87.9% of the total), it follows that the employment structure will be virtually the same as the total sample. This is expressed in the rank ordering of the occupational categories by percent of numbers involved (Table 2.10), where only minor changes in the order occur. Employed professionals are still the largest group, followed by the skilled trades which together occupy a quarter of the total.

## TABLE 2.9

## Economic Characteristics of Respondents - Family Setting

| Education | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to junior high | 229 | | 10.9 |
| High school | 666 | | 31.6 |
| Technical | 623 | | 29.6 |
| University and other | 588 | | 27.9 |
| | | 2,106 | |
| **Income Earners** (per household) | | | |
| 1 | 638 | | 31.6 |
| 2 | 1,038 | | 51.3 |
| 3 and more | 346 | | 17.1 |
| | | 2,022 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.10

### Rank of Employment Structure of Respondents Who Recreate with Family

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professional | 14.3 |
| 2 | Skilled trades | 10.8 |
| 3 | Housewives | 9.5 |
| 4 | Skilled clerical | 8.8 |
| 5 | Middle management | 8.3 |
| 6 | Retired | 6.3 |
| 7 | Semi-skilled clerical | 5.4 |
| 8 | Semi-skilled trade | 4.5 |
| 9 | Unskilled labor | 4.5 |
| 10 | Farmers | 4.5 |
| 11 | Semi-professional | 4.4 |
| 12 | Technicians | 4.3 |
| 13 | Students | 3.1 |
| 14 | Supervisors | 2.9 |
| 15 | Unskilled clerical | 2.2 |
| 16 | High management | 1.8 |
| 17 | Foremen | 1.5 |
| 18 | Other | 0.8 |
| 19 | Self-employed professional | 0.6 |
| 20 | Farm labor | 0.3 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

The two-income household is still in the majority (51.2 %) and together with the three and more category forms 68.4 percent of the households. The one-income household is limited to less than one third of the total. Diagram 2.2 shows the income distribution by dollars for those participating in the family social setting. The form of the distribution is the same as the previous "friends" social setting, although the numbers involved are slightly smaller. The modal class is still the $25,000 - $30,000 per annum category, with 54.7 percent earning less than $30,000 per annum and 11.5 percent earning more than $50,000.

### c) Geographical

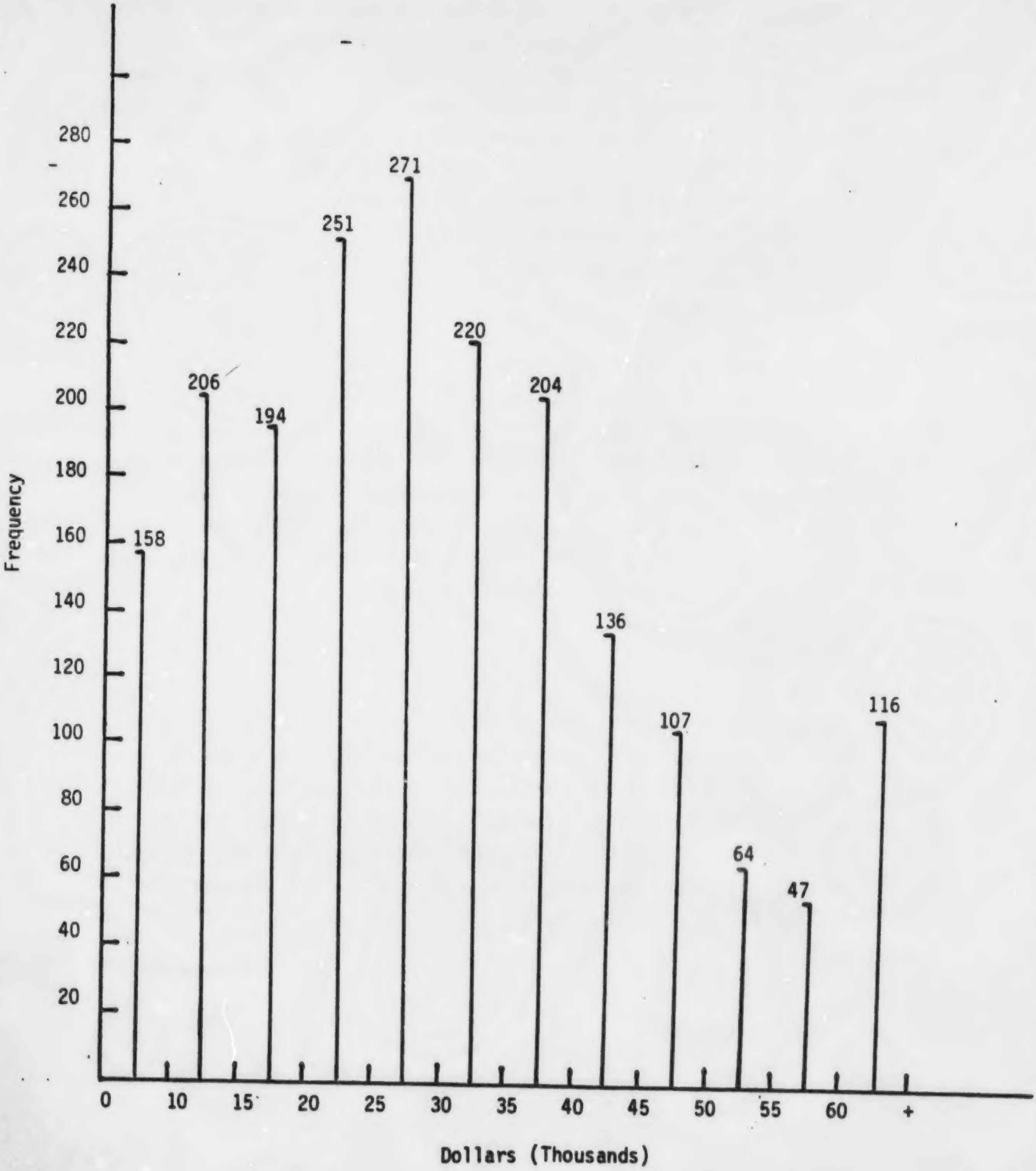
The geographical characteristics of this social setting can be quickly summarized from the information contained in Table 2.11. By far, the majority of respondents are urban dwellers who reside in the two main cities of Edmonton or Calgary or the smaller cities of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. About one quarter are rural residents on farms or in small towns. Most respondents have resided in the province for 11 years and more, 82.3 percent for more than six years and 16.6 percent for less than 5 years.

### d) Housetype

Again, most of the respondents (69.2 %) reside in single family detached houses, while condominiums and apartment units are the residences for about one quarter. Most people own their own homes, the ownership rate being a few percentage points higher than the "friends" social setting. The majority of respondents have resided in their homes for less than five years, and only 22 percent have resided for more than 10 years.

## Diagram 2.2

Income Distribution of those Participating with Family



## TABLE 2.11

## The Geographical Aspects of Respondents Who Recreate with Family

| Location | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 1,835 | | 88.9 |
| Rural | 229 | | 11.1 |
| | | 2,064 | |
| Metro. area | 1,195 | | 57.5 |
| Small city | 299 | | 14.4 |
| Other | 583 | | 28.1 |
| | | 2,077 | |
| Length of Residence in Alberta | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 49 | | 2.3 |
| 1-5 years | 301 | | 14.3 |
| 6-10 years | 204 | | 9.7 |
| 11 years and more | 1,544 | | 73.6 |
| | | 2,098 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.12

## Housetype of Respondents Who Participate with Family

| Type of Residence | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 242 | | 11.5 |
| House | 1,458 | | 69.2 |
| Attached house | 305 | | 14.5 |
| Other | 103 | | 4.9 |
| | | 2,108 | |
| **Occupancy Status** | | | |
| Own | 1,498 | | 72.1 |
| Rent | 581 | | 27.9 |
| | | 2,079 | |
| **Length of Residence in Present Dwelling** | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 445 | | 21.1 |
| 1-5 years | 913 | | 43.4 |
| 6-10 years | 284 | | 13.5 |
| 10+ years | 463 | | 22.0 |
| | | 2,105 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

### 2.2.4 Summary

i) Most of the sample of respondents (87.8 %) participate in recreational activities with their families. As a consequence, this group does not differ in any marked respect from the sample population and from those who participate with friends.

ii) Most are male, married, young and over 50% have children.

iii) Educational attainments of respondent and spouse are particularly high and correspondingly, work status is on the higher side, incomes are relatively high, modal class is $25,000 - $30,000 per annum, and home ownership also tends to be high. The single family house is the main dwelling unit.

iv) The one-income household is the exception rather than the rule.

v) Again, most people are urban dwellers living in one of Alberta's smaller cities; most of them have been living in the province for more than a decade, but not in their present dwelling unit.

vi) The data suggests that there is not a strong difference between those who participate with their families and those who do not.

### 2.2.5 Participation by Self

This social setting ranks third in importance after participation with friends and family. One thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight (1,778) people indicated that they participated in many recreational activities by themselves. This represents 73.3 percent of the total sample. The remaining 26.7 percent is divided into 20.3 percent who never participated by themselves and 6.4 percent who failed to answer the question or spoiled their response sheet in some way.

## a) Demographics

The majority of the people who responded positively were males who again outnumbered females by a ratio of almost two to one (Table 2.13). The ratio is much the same for those who indicated they did not participate by themselves. Again, married people formed the bulk of the respondents (67.9 %), but this was not quite as high a proportion as that of the total sample (69.3 %). Although only 21.6 percent of the respondents were single, this proportion was substantially higher than the corresponding one for the total sample (17.7%), which may well indicate the peculiar circumstances that people living alone may face when participating in recreation activities. Nevertheless, the high proportion of married people who engage in recreational activities by themselves is distinctive and it might be informative at some later date to trace the actual recreational activities in which these people engage alone.

The relative importance of the age groupings for this group of respondents remains the same as the previous groups (friends and family). Again, the 25-34 year age group is by far the most significant numerically, as might be anticipated from the sample distribution. Again a chi-square test was conducted to determine whether or not a difference exists between those who participate by themselves and those who do not. Table 2.14 sets out this information in five age categories. The hypotheses tested were:

$H_0$: Age has no bearing on whether a person participates by himself (herself) or not, ie: there is no difference between the two groups.

$H_1$: Age has a bearing on whether a person participates by himself (herself) or not.

## TABLE 2.13

## Demographic Characteristics of Persons Participating by Themselves

| Sex | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 1149 | | 65.3 |
| Female | 611 | | 34.7 |
| | | 1760 | |
| **Marital Status** | | | |
| Married | 1192 | | 67.9 |
| Single | 362 | | 20.6 |
| Other | 202 | | 11.5 |
| | | 1756 | |
| **Age** | | | |
| To 24 | 329 | | 18.8 |
| 25 - 34 | 644 | | 36.8 |
| 35 - 44 | 323 | | 18.4 |
| 45 - 64 | 364 | | 20.8 |
| 65 + | 91 | | 5.2 |
| | | 1751 | |
| **Spouse's Education** | | | |
| Up to and junior high | 140 | | 11.6 |
| High school | 459 | | 37.9 |
| Technical | 320 | | 26.4 |
| University and other | 292 | | 24.1 |
| | | 1211 | |

## TABLE 2.13 (Contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children less than 6 years | | | |
| None | 1375 | | 77.3 |
| 1 | 249 | | 14.0 |
| 2 | 126 | | 7.1 |
| 3 and more | 28 | | 1.6 |
| | | 1778 | |
| Children 6 - 17 | | | |
| None | 1229 | | 69.1 |
| 1 | 230 | | 12.9 |
| 2 | 216 | | 12.1 |
| 3 and more | 103 | | 5.8 |
| | | 1778 | |
| Adults 18 - 29 | | | |
| None | 817 | | 46.0 |
| 1 | 403 | | 22.7 |
| 2 | 477 | | 26.8 |
| 3 and more | 81 | | 4.6 |
| | | 1778 | |
| Adults 30 - 49 | | | |
| None | 905 | | 50.9 |
| 1 | 347 | | 19.5 |
| 2 | 525 | | 29.5 |
| 3 and more | 1 | | 0.1 |
| | | 1778 | |
| Adults 50 - 64 | | | |
| None | 1432 | | 80.5 |
| 1 | 184 | | 10.3 |
| 2 | 161 | | 9.1 |
| 3 and more | 1 | | 0.1 |
| | | 1778 | |

## TABLE 2.13 (Contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adults 65+ | | | |
| None | 1645 | | 92.5 |
| 1 | 90 | | 5.1 |
| 2 | 42 | | 2.4 |
| 3 and more | 1 | | .1 |
| | | 1778 | |
| **Household by Occupants** | | | |
| Couple with children | 848 | | 48.3 |
| Couple with no children | 407 | | 23.2 |
| Single parent | 95 | | 5.4 |
| Unrelated adults and other | 405 | | 23.1 |
| | | 1755 | |
| **House Size by People** | | | |
| One | 204 | | 11.7 |
| Two | 566 | | 32.5 |
| Three | 327 | | 18.8 |
| Four | 383 | | 22.0 |
| Five | 162 | | 9.3 |
| Six and more | 99 | | 5.7 |
| | | 1741 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.14

## The Age Structure of Those Who DO and DO NOT Participate by Themselves

| | Up to 24<br>N % | 25 - 34<br>N % | 35-44<br>N % | 45-64<br>N % | 65 and over<br>N % | Total<br>N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 329(18.8) | 644(36.8) | 323(18.4) | 364(20.8) | 91 (5.2) | 1751 |
| No | 45 (9.3) | 139(28.9) | 93(19.4) | 140(29.2) | 63(13.1) | 480 |
| | 374(16.8) | 783(35.1) | 416(18.6) | 504(22.6) | 154 (6.9) | 2231 |

$X^2 = 72.91$ d.f = 4 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

According to the chi-square test, $H_0$ must be rejected and the conclusion is that there is a difference in the age distributions between those who participate by themselves and those who do not. On the basis of this finding, it is tempting to compare the age structures as a means of distinguishing those who participate with their families from those who participate by themselves. This test is not logically or statistically valid, given the aggregated nature of the data.

Spouses' educational levels of attainment are proportionately higher than the previous two social settings. Over 50 percent of the spouses have studied beyond the high school level.

The breakdown in household age structure of the respondents is much the same as before. There are again the high proportions of "no observations" in each of the age categories. Thus, 77.3 percent of the households are without children under the age of six and 69.1 percent are without children between 6 and 17 years. Still, households with children predominate (53.7%), and there are the high proportions of homes without persons between 50 and 64 years and 65 years and over. Again, about half of the households are without people between the ages of 18 - 29 and 30 - 49. However, a slightly higher proportion of young adults (18 - 29 years) are among this group of respondents.

The two-person household again predominates as the major entity, but households with three and more persons form the largest group - 55.8 percent. This is not quite as high as the previous two settings but the marginal difference does not suggest anything distinctive.

### b) Economic

Compared with the sample, the respondents who participate in social settings by themselves tend to be more highly educated. This holds also for the previous two social settings. Unlike previous social settings, the majority case here is the university (and other) category, which may suggest that the opportunities for engaging in activities by oneself are more prevalent (Table 2.15).

The rank ordering of the occupations of these respondents is shown in Table 2.16. Overall, the changes in the status of occupations, although not extreme, are quite marked. Housewives, the retired, and farmers have slipped down the list while students, the semi-skilled tradesmen, the semi-professionals and technicians have moved up. There has also been some change in the percentages of the various occupational groups, with the "employed professional" and "semi-professional" categories strengthening their representation and the other groups dropping slightly. Farmers and the retired show a marked percentage decrease.

Again, the two-income household forms the majority category and, along with those households with three and more incomes, forms 67.7 percent of the total households. About one third of the households in this social setting relies on one income. Diagram 2.3 shows the income distribution of those participating by themselves. Compared with the previous two social settings, there is no discernible difference in the form of the distribution and it is concluded that while there are fewer people involved, their incomes are proportionately distributed in much the same manner as the other groups.

### c) Geographical

Table 2.17 summarizes the information relevant to the geographical background of the respondents who participated in recreational activities by themselves. Again, the majority of the respondents by far are urban dwellers; a lesser proportion, although still substantial, dwells in the two metropolitan areas and slightly more than one quarter lives in rural areas and small towns. A slightly higher proportion of the total are metropolitan area residents as compared to the two previous social settings. There is virtually no change from the preceding settings in the lengths of residence of these respondents in Alberta. There is a slightly lower proportion of people in the setting residing in the province 11 or more years.

## TABLE 2.15

## Economic Characteristics of Respondents - Participation by Self

| Education | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to junior high | 138 | | 7.8 |
| High school | 522 | | 29.6 |
| Technical | 531 | | 30.1 |
| University and other | 571 | | 32.4 |
| | | 1,762 | |
| Income Earners<br>(per household) | | | |
| 1 | 545 | | 32.3 |
| 2 | 863 | | 51.2 |
| 3 and more | 278 | | 16.5 |
| | | 1,686 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.16

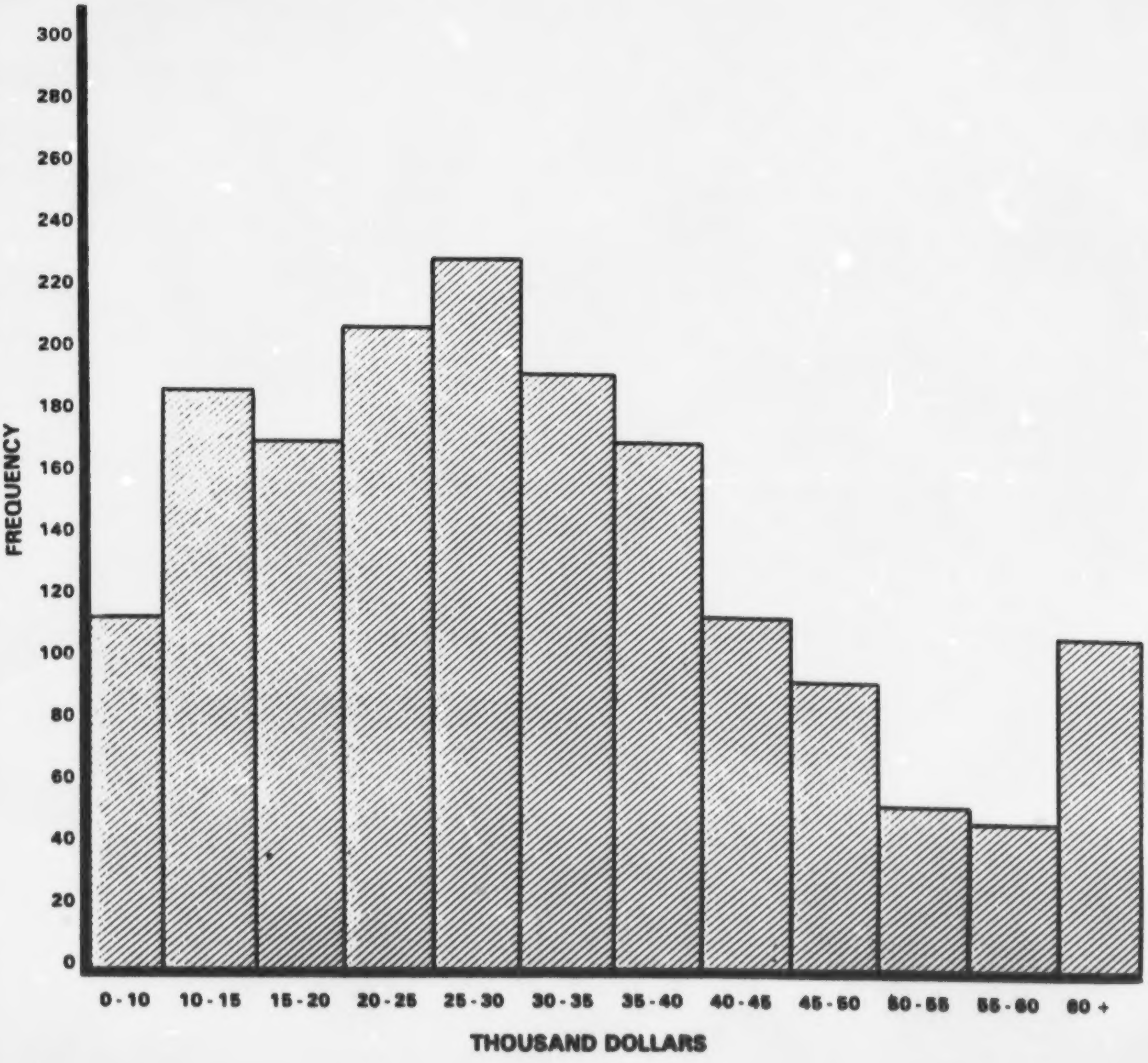
### Rank of Employment Structure of Respondents Who Recreate by Themselves

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professional | 16.4 |
| 2 | Skilled trades | 10.6 |
| 3 | Skilled clerical | 8.5 |
| 4 | Housewives | 8.3 |
| 5 | Middle management | 8.0 |
| 6 | Semi-skilled clerical | 5.8 |
| 7 | Semi-professional | 5.4 |
| 8 | Retired | 5.2 |
| 9 | Unskilled labor | 4.5 |
| 10 | Semi-skilled trades | 4.3 |
| 11 | Technicians | 4.2 |
| 12 | Students | 3.9 |
| 13 | Farmers | 3.7 |
| 14 | Supervisors | 2.8 |
| 15 | Unskilled clerical | 2.2 |
| 16 | High management | 1.9 |
| 17 | Foremen | 1.1 |
| 18 | Other | 1.1 |
| 19 | Self-employed | 0.7 |
| 20 | Farm laborer | 0.4 |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

## DIAGRAM 2.3

INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF
THOSE PARTICIPATING BY
SELF



## TABLE 2.17

## The Geographical Aspects of Respondents Who Recreate by Themselves

| Location | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 1,548 | | 89.3 |
| Rural | 185 | | 10.7 |
| | | 1,733 | |
| Metro. area | 1,041 | | 59.8 |
| Small city | 227 | | 13.0 |
| Other | 472 | | 27.2 |
| | | 1,740 | |
| Length of Residence in Alberta | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 43 | | 2.5 |
| 1 - 5 years | 286 | | 16.3 |
| 6 - 10 years | 180 | | 10.3 |
| 11 years and more | 1,244 | | 71.0 |
| | | 1,753 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

### d) Housetype

Most of these respondents reside in single family detached houses, although this proportion is slightly smaller than the previous social settings (Table 2.18). Again, most people own their home, whatever its type, and the largest proportion (45.0%) have resided at their present address for between one and five years. This is similar to the results observed before.

### 2.2.6 Summary

i) Except for minor details, the socio-economic profile of people who have recreation by themselves, corresponds closely to those people who have recreation with friends and family. However, lesser numbers of individuals are involved.

ii) The differences which do exist, although small, suggest a point of departure from the previous settings. Proportionately, more single people are involved in this setting; a high percentage are younger (18 - 29 years); people are more highly educated; occupations which might restrict one from doing activities by oneself (e.g., housewives, the retired) are not as important in this setting and proportionately more people are urban, metropolitan dwellers.

TABLE 2.18

## Housetype Characteristics of Respondents Who Participate by Themselves

| Type of Residence | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 258 | | 14.7 |
| House | 1,146 | | 65.1 |
| Attached house | 278 | | 15.8 |
| Other | 78 | | 4.4 |
| | | 1,760 | |
| **Occupancy Status** | | | |
| Own | 1,164 | | 67.0 |
| Rent | 573 | | 33.0 |
| | | 1,737 | |
| **Length of Residence in Present Home** | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 402 | | 22.9 |
| 1 - 5 years | 792 | | 45.0 |
| 6 - 10 years | 218 | | 12.4 |
| 10+ years | 347 | | 19.7 |
| | | 1,759 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

### 2.2.7 Participation with Workers

This setting ranks fourth in importance numerically. One thousand, two hundred and seventy-five people (1,275) indicated that they engaged in some recreational activity with their fellow workers - 52.6 percent of the sample. As anticipated, many people did not recreate with workers because of the circumstances of their daily activities - housewives, students, farmers or those who are self-employed. This, in turn, suggests that this social setting may have a profile distinctly different from the three previous social settings.

#### a) Demographics

Proportionately more males than females responded positively to this social setting (Table 2.19). This was the highest proportion of all the settings discussed to this point, and higher than that of the total sample. A slightly lower proportion than the other social settings were married; yet, this still comprised a substantial proportion - over two-thirds. The highest proportion of the respondents were between the ages of 25 and 34 years as has been the case with other settings; however, the number of elderly dropped significantly in comparison. Advanced education of spouses was high but not as high as the preceding setting of "self".

A chi-square test was again conducted to show the association between the age categories of the respondents who answered positively and negatively to this social setting.

$H_0$: No significant difference between age and "yes", "no" categories.
$H_1$: A significant difference exists between age and the categories answering yes and no.

Table 2.20 sets out the results. There is a significant difference between the age distributions of the yes and no categories, - i.e., the age structures between the two groups are different. The conclusion is that people who participate with their fellow workers are different from those who do not.

## TABLE 2.19

### Demographic Characteristics of People Participating with Workers

| Sex | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 900 | | 71.6 |
| Female | 357 | | 28.4 |
| | | 1,257 | |
| Marital Status | | | |
| Married | 868 | | 68.9 |
| Single | 265 | | 21.0 |
| Other | 127 | | 10.1 |
| | | 1,260 | |
| Age | | | |
| To 24 | 235 | | 18.7 |
| 25 - 34 | 494 | | 39.4 |
| 35 - 44 | 230 | | 18.3 |
| 45 - 64 | 247 | | 19.7 |
| 65 and over | 49 | | 3.9 |
| | | 1,255 | |
| Spouse's Education | | | |
| Up to & junior high | 94 | | 10.7 |
| High school | 352 | | 40.2 |
| Technical | 223 | | 25.5 |
| University & other | 206 | | 23.5 |
| | | 875 | |

TABLE 2.19 (contd.)

| Household Age Structure | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children under 6 years | | | |
| None | 966 | | 75.8 |
| 1 | 197 | | 15.5 |
| 2 | 96 | | 7.5 |
| 3 and more | 16 | | 1.3 |
| | | 1,275 | |
| Children 6-17 | | | |
| None | 872 | | 68.4 |
| 1 | 179 | | 14.0 |
| 2 | 156 | | 12.2 |
| 3 and more | 68 | | 5.3 |
| | | 1,275 | |
| Adults 18-29 | | | |
| None | 555 | | 43.5 |
| 1 | 284 | | 22.3 |
| 2 | 364 | | 28.5 |
| 3 and more | 72 | | 5.6 |
| | | 1,275 | |
| Adults 30-49 | | | |
| None | 642 | | 50.3 |
| 1 | 240 | | 18.8 |
| 2 | 391 | | 30.7 |
| 3 and more | 2 | | 0.2 |
| | | 1,275 | |
| Adults 50-64 | | | |
| None | 1,041 | | 81.6 |
| 1 | 132 | | 10.4 |
| 2 | 102 | | 8.0 |
| 3 and more | | | |
| | | 1,275 | |

TABLE 2.19 (contd.)

| Adults 65 & over | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| None | 1,199 | | 94.0 |
| 1 | 53 | | 4.2 |
| 2 | 22 | | 1.7 |
| 3 | 1 | | 0.1 |
| | | 1,275 | |
| **Housetype by Occupants** | | | |
| Couple with children | 631 | | 50.1 |
| Couple, no children | 281 | | 22.3 |
| Single parent | 60 | | 4.8 |
| Unrelated adults & other | 288 | | 22.9 |
| | | 1,260 | |
| **House Size by People** | | | |
| One | 140 | | 11.2 |
| Two | 396 | | 31.6 |
| Three | 248 | | 19.8 |
| Four | 268 | | 21.4 |
| Five | 118 | | 9.4 |
| Six & more | 82 | | 6.5 |
| | | 1,252 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

TABLE 2.20

The Age Structures of Those Who DO
and DO NOT Participate with
Their Fellow Workers

| | Up to 24<br>N % | 25 to 34<br>N % | 35 to 44<br>N % | 45 to 64<br>N % | 65 and over<br>N % | Total<br>N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 235(18.7) | 494(39.4) | 230(18.3) | 247(19.7) | 49(3.9) | 1,255 |
| No | 131(14.3) | 285(31.0) | 184(20.0) | 239(26.0) | 79(8.6) | 918 |
| | 366(16.8) | 779(35.8) | 414(19.1) | 486(22.4) | 128(5.9) | 2,173 |

$X^2 = 46.71$ $p = 0.01$ $df = 4$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

The typical person who participates with his/her fellow workers does not have children either under the age of 6 or between 6 and 17 years. Households with children, however, predominate, forming 54.9 percent of the total. There are few houses with elderly people and only 18 percent with people aged 50 - 64 years. Half of the houses have adults aged 30 - 49 years, and nearly 60 percent have at least one adult aged 18 - 29. This means, in effect, that the age group of respondents who participate with fellow workers is that of slightly younger people than in the previous settings.

The two-person household again forms the majority group and with only slight variations, the relative importance of the other categories remains the same as the other social settings.

### b) Economic

As far as education is concerned, these respondents tend to be more like those in the group which participates by itself rather than those in the other social settings. This is because these people are more highly educated than the other groups - with over 30 percent in the "university and other" categories (Table 2.21).

Table 2.22 shows the rank ordering of occupations in which these respondents are employed. Employed professionals, as in all previous settings, head the list and have here increased their percentage share of the total. Middle management has improved its position and its percentage share, while housewives and the retired have moved further down the scale. The lower showing of these latter categories is as expected, since they generally do not have jobs within the work force. Apart from these divergencies, the rank ordering remains much the same.

The two-income household again predominates and in this setting it comprises over 52 percent of the total households. One income remains the rule for about one third of the households; therefore, nearly 70 percent of the respondents reside in homes with two or more incomes.

## TABLE 2.21

## Economic Characteristics of Respondents - Participation with Workers

| Education | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to junior high | 99 | | 7.8 |
| High school | 382 | | 30.2 |
| Technical | 384 | | 30.4 |
| University & other | 400 | | 31.6 |
| | | 1,265 | |
| Income Earners (per household) | | | |
| 1 | 382 | | 31.3 |
| 2 | 640 | | 52.4 |
| 3 & more | 200 | | 16.3 |
| | | 1,222 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

TABLE 2.22

## Rank Order of Occupations of People Who Participate with Workers

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professional | 16.8 |
| 2 | Skilled trades | 10.8 |
| 3 | Middle management | 9.2 |
| 4 | Skilled clerical | 8.7 |
| 5 | Semi-skilled clerical | 6.0 |
| 6 | Semi-skilled trades | 5.3 |
| 7 | Semi-professional | 5.3 |
| 8 | Technicians | 5.1 |
| 9 | Housewives | 4.7 |
| 10 | Unskilled labor | 4.6 |
| 11 | Farmers | 4.5 |
| 12 | Students | 3.9 |
| 13 | Supervisors | 3.8 |
| 14 | Retired | 3.1 |
| 15 | High management | 2.3 |
| 16 | Unskilled clerical | 1.7 |
| 17 | Foremen | 1.3 |
| 18 | Self-employed | 0.9 |
| 19 | Other | 0.7 |
| 20 | Farm laborers | 0.2 |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

Diagram 2.4 shows the distribution by class of the incomes of people in the "participate with workers" social setting. That distribution is again the same as in the previous social settings, even though there are substantially fewer people involved. There is one exception here. The $10,000 - $15,000 category is not of the same importance, so that there has been a slight shift upward in the average income of these respondents.

### c) Geographical

Table 2.23 summarizes the information relevant to the geographical background of these respondents. The majority are urban dwellers once again, constituting the highest proportion of any setting living in urban locations. Just more than half of the respondents live in the two metropolitan areas; notably, this is a proportionate decrease compared with the previous social settings, a drop of about two percent. The increase occurs in the small city category. The proportionate distribution of length of residence in Alberta is almost identical to the previous social settings, with a slight drop in those living here for 11 years and more - a noted feature for those who have recreation by themselves as well.

### d) Housetype

Single family detached housing forms the predominant dwelling unit once again. The proportion of respondents living in apartments is almost identical with that for the "self" social setting, and higher than that for "friends" and "family". Over two-thirds of these respondents own their homes - as before. One important difference shown by this table is in the length of residence in the present dwelling of these respondents. Proportionately more have resided at their present address for less than five years. The significance of this is difficult to ascertain (Table 2.24).

## DIAGRAM 2.4

INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF
THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE
WITH WORKERS

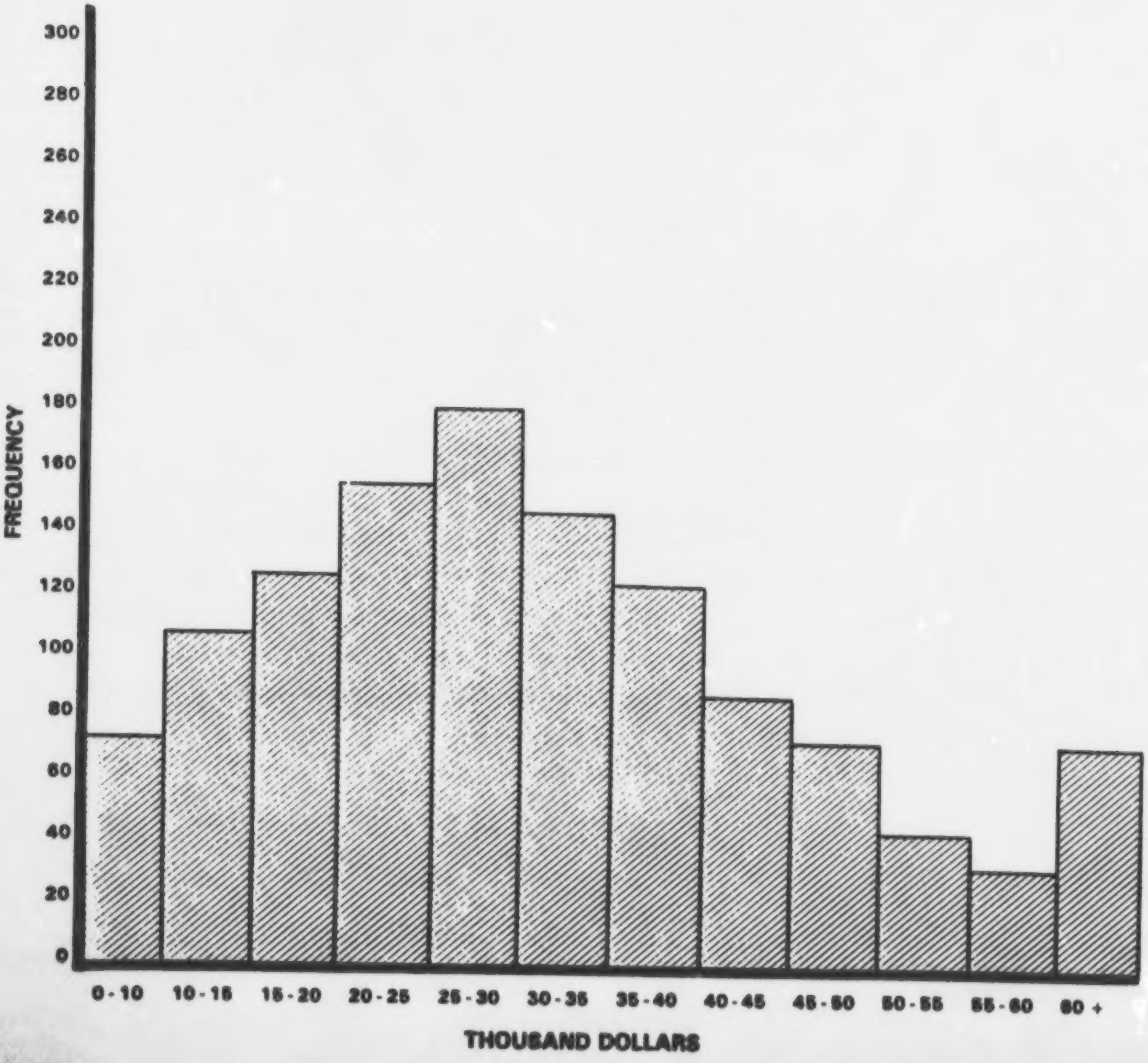


TABLE 2.23

The Geographical Aspects of Respondents Who Recreate with Fellow Workers

| Location | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 1,128 | | 90.7 |
| Rural | 116 | | 9.3 |
| | | 1,244 | |
| Metro area | 711 | | 56.9 |
| Small city | 191 | | 15.3 |
| Other | 347 | | 27.8 |
| | | 1,249 | |
| Length of Residence in Alberta | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 32 | | 2.5 |
| 1 - 5 years | 209 | | 16.6 |
| 6 - 10 years | 123 | | 9.8 |
| 11 years & more | 892 | | 71.0 |
| | | 1,256 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

### TABLE 2.24

### Housetype Characteristics of Respondents Who Participate with Workers

| Type of Residence | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 185 | | 14.6 |
| House | 836 | | 66.2 |
| Attached house | 182 | | 14.4 |
| Other | 60 | | 4.8 |
| | | 1,263 | |
| **Occupancy Status** | | | |
| Own | 856 | | 68.5 |
| Rent | 393 | | 31.5 |
| | | 1,249 | |
| **Length of Residence in Present House** | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 305 | | 24.2 |
| 1 - 5 years | 580 | | 46.0 |
| 6 - 10 years | 149 | | 11.8 |
| 10+ years | 227 | | 18.0 |
| | | 1,261 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

### 2.2.8 Summary.

i) Participation with workers as a social setting for recreation was expected to be somewhat different from the other settings. This, however, is not the case.

ii) More males than females responded to this setting - the highest proportion of all settings. Fewer elderly people are involved. Therefore, the group is a slightly younger one.

iii) There is some slight evidence to show that this group is more like the "self" social setting than the other two. It is more highly educated, two-income households are very important and incomes are generally higher. Occupation categories such as housewives and the retired which are not in the work force tend to rank lower here and apartment living tends to be higher.

### 2.2.9 Participation with Church Group

Of the total sample, 542 people indicated that they participated with a church group (22.4%). This is a substantial drop from the previous setting and it represents a relatively small proportion of the total; on this basis alone, it might be concluded there is something distinctive about the setting which sets it apart from the others.

#### a) Demographics

Table 2.25 provides the information on the demographic profile of this group. Again, males outnumber females in much the same proportion as in the total sample and the other social setting profiles, except in the social setting of those who participate with fellow workers. Again, the vast majority were married - a proportion higher than that of the other social settings except "family". There is a shift in the relative importance of the age categories. Whereas previously the 25-34 year age group has proven the most important numerically, here the 45-64 years category is numerically the most important and there is a higher proportion of people over the age of 65. This group, then, is the oldest.

## TABLE 2.25

## Demographic Characteristics of People Participating with Church Groups

| Sex | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 342 | | 63.1 |
| Female | 200 | | 36.9 |
| | | 542 | |
| **Marital Status** | | | |
| Married | 403 | | 73.5 |
| Single | 79 | | 14.6 |
| Other | 66 | | 12.0 |
| | | 548 | |
| **Age** | | | |
| To 24 | 54 | | 10.0 |
| 25-34 | 130 | | 24.0 |
| 35-44 | 105 | | 19.4 |
| 45-64 | 170 | | 31.4 |
| 65 and over | 82 | | 15.2 |
| | | 541 | |
| **Spouse's Education** | | | |
| Up to & junior high | 72 | | 17.6 |
| High school | 162 | | 39.6 |
| Technical | 97 | | 23.7 |
| University & other | 78 | | 19.1 |
| | | 409 | |
| **Household Age Structure** | | | |
| Children under 6 years | | | |
| None | 444 | | 79.9 |
| 1 | 62 | | 11.2 |
| 2 | 39 | | 7.0 |
| 3 & more | 11 | | 2.0 |
| | | 556 | |

TABLE 2.25 (contd.)

| | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Children 6-17 | | | |
| None | 342 | | 61.5 |
| 1 | 78 | | 14.0 |
| 2 | 89 | | 16.0 |
| 3 & more | 47 | | 8.4 |
| | | 556 | |
| Adults 18-29 | | | |
| None | 336 | | 60.4 |
| 1 | 98 | | 17.6 |
| 2 | 103 | | 18.5 |
| 3 & more | 19 | | 3.4 |
| | | 556 | |
| Adults 30-49 | | | |
| None | 276 | | 49.6 |
| 1 | 116 | | 20.9 |
| 2 | 161 | | 29.0 |
| 3 & more | 3 | | 0.6 |
| | | 556 | |
| Adults 50-64 | | | |
| None | 388 | | 69.8 |
| 1 | 86 | | 15.5 |
| 2 | 82 | | 14.7 |
| 3 & more | 0 | | .0 |
| | | 556 | |

Table 2.25 (contd.)

| | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adults 65 and over | | | |
| None | 457 | | 82.2 |
| 1 | 61 | | 11.0 |
| 2 | 36 | | 6.5 |
| 3 & more | 2 | | 0.4 |
| | | 556 | |
| Housetype by Occupants | | | |
| Couple with children | 288 | | 52.7 |
| Couple - no children | 124 | | 22.7 |
| Single parent | 28 | | 5.1 |
| Unrelated adults & other | 106 | | 19.4 |
| | | 546 | |
| House Size by People | | | |
| One | 65 | | 11.9 |
| Two | 158 | | 29.0 |
| Three | 84 | | 15.4 |
| Four | 113 | | 20.7 |
| Five | 69 | | 12.7 |
| Six & more | 56 | | 10.3 |
| | | 545 | |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

A chi-square test of association was again used to find out if there is a difference between the negative and positive responses relative to age for this social setting. The hypotheses were:

$H_o$: There is no difference between those who answered "yes" or "no" and their associated age structures.

$H_1$: There is a difference between those who answered "yes" or "no" and their associated age structures.

Table 2.25A shows the results. There is a difference between the age distributions of the two categories; therefore, the conclusion is that those who participate with church groups in their recreational activities are different from those who do not. This is suggested by the older age of this group, alluded to above.

The person who participates in social settings which include church groups tends not to have children younger than 6 years. The percentage of households with no pre-school children is the highest for all social settings. The households in this social setting are more likely to have children between the ages of 6 and 17 years and the proportion of households with children in this age category is the highest of all the settings. This may be a reflection of the older average age of this profile. Further evidence of this is in the lower proportion of households with people between 18 and 29 years and in the relatively high proportions of adults in the other age categories - e.g., 17.9 percent of households have adults 65 years of age and over.

Again, the two-person household predominates, but it is not so important here as in the other settings. Households with 5 and 6 and more people have increased substantially. Couples with children are about the same proportionately as in the other settings; while there is some variation in the other three categories of housetype, compared to the previous profiles, in general, they remain much the same.

TABLE 2.25A

## The Age Structure of Those Who DO and DO NOT Participate in a Church Group

| | Age<br>Up to 24<br>N % | 25 to 34<br>N % | 35 to 44<br>N % | 45 to 64<br>N % | 65 and over<br>N % | Total<br>N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 54(10.0) | 130(24.0) | 105(19.4) | 170(31.4) | 82(15.2) | 541 |
| No | 302(18.7) | 629(39.0) | 301(18.7) | 313(19.4) | 66(4.2) | 1,611 |
| Total | 356(16.5) | 759(35.3) | 406(18.9) | 483(22.4) | 148(6.9) | 2,152 |

$X^2 = 142.87$ $p = 0.01$ $df = 4$

### b) Economic

The educational attainment of these respondents differs in some important respects from that for the total sample and the other social settings (Table 2.26). Taken in order, these differences are as follows:

i) There are proportionately more people in the "Up to and junior high school" level. That is, this group is less educated.
ii) Less people completed or attended high school, proportionately.
iii) The same observation can be made about their technical education.
iv) A higher proportion than that for the total sample and the "friends" and "family" social settings attended university.

The two-income household is still the most important category, but it is proportionately less important than that for the total sample and the other settings. Effectively, this means that there is a higher proportion of one-income households as well as three or more income households. Perhaps, this is a reflection of the larger families (see Table 2.25).

Table 2.27 is the rank ordering of the occupations engaged in by respondents who engage in recreation with church groups. To reiterate, the ranking is based on the proportions involved in each occupational category. The distribution tends to be more like that for the total sample and "family" and "friends" categories than like that for the "self" and "workers" profiles. Nonetheless, the notable feature is the changed relative importance of groups which might be more dependent on church activities. In this regard, housewives, the retired and farmers have all moved up in importance. The propensity of these groups to use the church setting for recreational activities may reflect the lower cost of recreation in this social setting as opposed to others. Diagram 2.5 shows a very different income distribution for this group compared to all other settings. The modal group has changed; it is now $10,000 - $15,000 class and the weighting is towards the lower end of the scale. In fact, nearly 64 percent of the respondents earn less than $30,000 annually.

## TABLE 2.26

## Economic Characteristics of Respondents Who Participate with Church Groups

| Education | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Up to junior high | 92 | | 16.7 |
| High school | 150 | | 27.3 |
| Technical | 147 | | 26.7 |
| University & other | 161 | | 29.2 |
| | | 550 | |
| **Income Earners** (per household) | | | |
| 1 | 190 | | 37.2 |
| 2 | 228 | | 44.6 |
| 3 & more | 93 | | 18.2 |
| | | 511 | |

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Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

TABLE 2.27

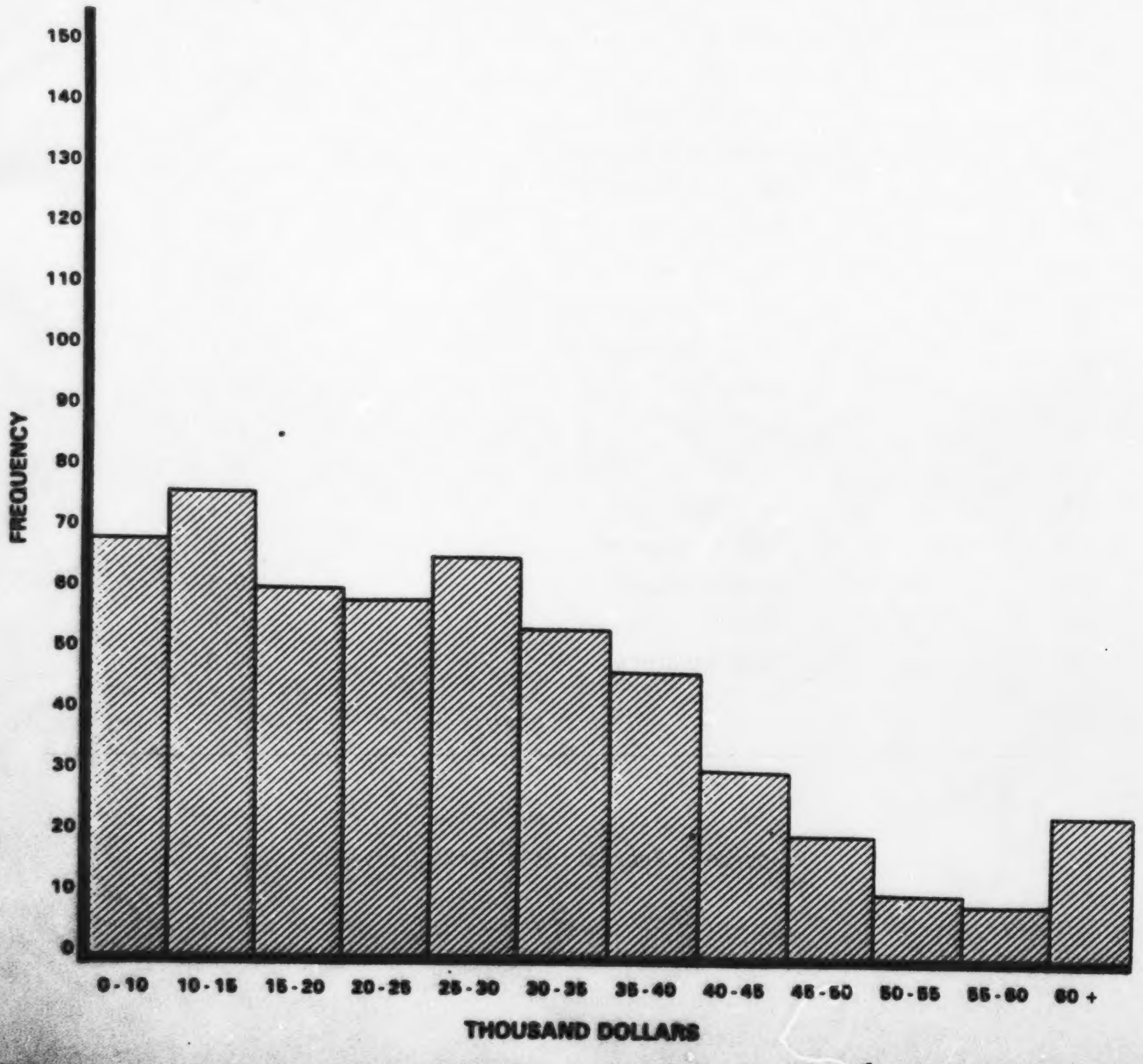
Rank of Employment Categories of Respondents Who Recreate with Church Groups

| Rank | Occupation Category | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Employed professional | 14.7 |
| 2 | Housewives | 13.2 |
| 3 | Retired | 11.3 |
| 4 | Skilled c[illegible]ical | 8.8 |
| 5 | Farmers | 7.8 |
| 6 | Skilled trades | 6.9 |
| 7 | Middle management | 5.5 |
| 8 | Semi-professional | 4.2 |
| 9 | Semi-clerical | 4.2 |
| 10 | Technicians | 3.8 |
| 11 | Semi-skilled trade | 3.8 |
| 12 | Unskilled labor | 3.6 |
| 13 | Supervisors | 3.1 |
| 14 | Students | 2.9 |
| 15 | Unskilled clerical | 2.1 |
| 16 | Foremen | 1.7 |
| 17 | High management | 0.8 |
| 18 | Self-employed | 0.6 |
| 19 | Other | 0.4 |
| 20 | Farm laborers | 0.0 |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

## DIAGRAM 2.5

INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF
THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE
WITH CHURCH GROUPS



### c) Geographical

Proportionately, more people live in rural areas in this social setting as compared to all the other social settings (Table 2.28). In the total sample, about 11 percent of the respondents are rural dwellers and this holds, more or less, for the rest of the social settings. In the church social setting, however, 16 percent of the respondents are rural dwellers. This is also reflected in the lower proportion of respondents who live in Calgary and Edmonton. A larger proportion, relative to the other settings, reside in the smaller cities (Red Deer, Lethbridge or Medicine Hat) and in the rural areas. By far, the majority of residents (78%) have lived in Alberta for 11 years and more; about the same proportion as other social settings have lived in Alberta for less than one year; fewer were noted for the years in between.

### d) Housetype

As Table 2.29 indicates, the greater majority of the respondents reside in single family homes and this represents the highest proportion of all the social settings. The lowest proportion of apartment use is also represented in this social setting. It follows that most people own their homes. There is a bi-modal distribution in the length of residence at the present address - one mode at 1-5 years and another at 10 years and more. This differs from the previous settings where the highest proportion had resided at their present address between one and five years. This reflects the residential stability of this group of recreationists.

## TABLE 2.28

## The Geographical Aspects of Respondents Who Recreate with Church Groups

| Location | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Urban | 453 | | 84.0 |
| Rural | 86 | | 16.0 |
| | | 539 | |
| Metro. area | 266 | | 48.9 |
| Small city | 115 | | 21.1 |
| Other | 163 | | 30.0 |
| | | 544 | |
| Length of Residence in Alberta | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 14 | | 2.6 |
| 1 - 5 years | 58 | | 10.7 |
| 6 - 10 years | 47 | | 8.7 |
| 11 years & more | 423 | | 78.0 |
| | | 542 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.29

## Housetype Characteristics of Respondents Who Participate with a Church Group

| Type of Residence | No. | Total | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apartment | 65 | | 11.8 |
| House | 407 | | 73.9 |
| Attached house | 60 | | 10.9 |
| Other | 19 | | 3.4 |
| | | 551 | |
| **Occupancy Status** | | | |
| Own | 415 | | 77.0 |
| Rent | 124 | | 23.0 |
| | | 539 | |
| **Length of Residence in Present Home** | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 90 | | 16.5 |
| 1 - 5 years | 198 | | 36.1 |
| 6 - 10 years | 86 | | 15.7 |
| 10+ years | 174 | | 31.8 |
| | | 548 | |

Source: Recreation & Parks Survey

### 2.2.10 Summary

Apart from the fewer numbers involved, this group of respondents who participate with a church group, are distinctive in the following aspects:

i) A high proportion of the group is married and, in general, the average age of the setting is older than previously.
ii) There is a strong difference between those who participate with church groups and those who claim they do not.
iii) This group tends to have older children than those groups in the other profiles.
iv) Households tend to be larger, not as educationally advanced or economically affluent as in the other settings.
v) Apparently, the people in this group as a consequence of the above factors, see recreational participation in the church social setting as not involving large expensive outlays.
vi) These people reside outside the metropolitan areas in homes which they have owned for a large number of years. Apparently, this group is more residentially stable than the groups of previous settings.

### 2.2.11 Other Groups

Only 116 people (4.8 percent of the total sample) participated with groups other than those listed. Hence this group has not been examined in any detail. Moreover, its members might not have been able to categorize the groups they participated with - e.g., community league, volunteer and school groups might represent groups including friends and family.

### 2.2.12 General Summary

Two distinct groups emerge from this analysis. One includes several profiles, all of very much the same numerical strength, the "friends" and "family" categories, which participate in much the same social setting and exhibit much the same socio-economic and demographic profiles. The other group consists of respondents who participate in recreational activities within church settings. This group seems to be older, less well-off economically than the rest of the respondents, and exhibit a greater stability in their length of residency.

A third group might tentatively be discerned. It consists of those who affiliate with "workers" and "by themselves". They seem different in some respects (e.g., employment, age and residential location) from the two major settings and the total sample. On the other hand, there are many features which make the profiles of these settings much the same as those of the total sample and "friends" and "family". These similarities tend to be numerically of more importance than the aberrant features; therefore, it is not entirely feasible to treat the settings as distinct entities.

## 2.3 Importance of Social Settings to the Respondents' Recreation

The information contained in Table 2.30 has been derived from the responses to question 5b, presented in the introduction to this report. Respondents were asked to indicate the importance to them of the various social settings in which they participate. Three categories were derived in this way: those who felt the setting was important to them, those who felt it was somewhat important to them and those who did not consider it important. Several points become evident from this analysis as follows:

i) There are discrepancies between the totals in Tables 2.1 and 2.30 (which represent the results of questions 5a and 5b respectively).

### TABLE 2.30

### The Importance of Each Social Setting to the Recreational Behaviour of the Respondents

| | Friends | | Family | | Self | | Workers | | Church | | Other | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Not important | 142 | 6.0 | 142 | 6.1 | 724 | 31.7 | 953 | 42.3 | 1452 | 65.2 | 44 | 35.5 |
| Somewhat important | 933 | 39.6 | 507 | 21.6 | 995 | 43.5 | 988 | 43.9 | 518 | 23.3 | 33 | 26.6 |
| Important | 1280 | 54.4 | 1698 | 72.3 | 567 | 24.8 | 311 | 13.8 | 257 | 11.5 | 47 | 37.9 |
| Totals | 2355 | 100.0 | 2347 | 100.0 | 2286 | 100.0 | 2252 | 100.0 | 2227 | 100.0 | 124 | 100.0 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

ii) Other discrepancies between the two tables are also evident. Those who claim a setting is not important to them, as in Table 2.30, should ideally be the same in total as those who indicated they did not participate in that particular setting, as in Table 2.1.

iii) Of all the settings[2], "the family" was felt to be the most important. That is, 72.3 percent of the respondents found the family setting is "Important" to their recreation. It was followed by "friends", "self", "workers" and "church groups".

iv) Of all the settings, "workers" were felt to be "Somewhat important" by the highest proportion responding to that category (43.9%). This was closely followed by the "self" setting (43.5%) and "friends" setting (39.6%). Comparatively fewer respondents found the "church" (23.3%) and the "family" settings (21.6%) "Somewhat important" to them.

v) The highest proportion of people responding to a setting and who felt it was "Not important" to them, occurred with the "church" setting (65.2%). "Friends" and "family" settings were at the other end of the scale, 6.0 and 6.1 percent respectively. The other two settings, "self" and "workers" fell midway between these.

vi) When the percentage scores were combined for "Important" and "Somewhat important", the social settings ranked as follows in terms of importance: friends (94.0%), family (93.9%), self (68.3%), workers (57.7%), and church (34.8%). This also matched the ranking found in the "Importance" category as noted in (iii) above.

---

[2] The "Other" category has been excluded from this discussion since it comprised only 5.1 percent of the total sample.

vii) The three profiles associated with the various social settings (as outlined previously in 2.3.12) are still evident in this analysis.

viii) Therefore, on the basis of this information, two settings - "friends" and "church groups" are examined here. The aggregated profile associated with each setting will not be repeated.

The personal data of the respondents to the three categories of importance within each setting have been compared by using the chi-square test. Only the significant associations are presented here.

## 2.3.1 The Importance of Friends

Only 6.0 percent of the 2,355 people who responded to this setting did not consider participation with friends as "Important" or "Somewhat important" to their recreational activities. Nearly 40 percent felt friends were "Somewhat important" and 54.4 percent indicated they were "Important".

The five tables, 2.31 - 2.35, indicate the associations between the importance of the setting and the respondents' personal data that were found to be significant through chi square testing. That is, feelings about the importance of friends are found to differ according to certain features of respondents' personal backgrounds. The main features are:

i) The importance of friends differs according to people's marital status. It is clear from table 2.31 that single people find friends overwhelmingly important compared to the other groups.

ii) The importance of friends differs according to people's age. Table 2.32 shows that participating in recreational activities with friends is of considerable importance to younger people and becomes progressively less so as they become older.

iii) The importance of friends differs according to the nature of people's household occupancy. Single parents and unrelated co-habiting adults have felt that the "friends" setting is of particular importance to their recreation.

iv) The importance of friends varies with the number of occupants per household. Friends tend to be more important for those who live alone or in smaller sized households and for those with large households - six or more persons.

v) The importance of friends differs according to the length of time people have lived at their present address. People who have lived at their present address for less than a year appear to be the most dependent on friends, while those who have resided there for more than 10 years are the least dependent (9.1 percent in this category stated friends were not important to their recreation).

vi) Geography and occupational/economic status appear to have no bearing on the importance respondents give to the "friends" setting and their recreation.

vii) It is not practical to conduct chi square tests on the household age structures and levels of importance of friends.

## TABLE 2.31

## Importance of Friends and Respondents' Marital Status

| | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Married | 103 | 6.3 | 720 | 43.8 | 820 | 49.0 | 1643 |
| Single | 17 | 4.1 | 106 | 25.4 | 295 | 70.6 | 418 |
| Other | 21 | 7.9 | 96 | 36.4 | 147 | 55.7 | 264 |
| Total | 141 | 6.0 | 922 | 39.7 | 1262 | 54.3 | 2325 |

$X^2 = 60.25 \quad df = 4 \quad p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.32

## Importance of Friends and Respondents' Age Distribution

| Years | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| To 24 | 17 | 4.5 | 121 | 32.1 | 239 | 63.4 | 377 |
| 25 - 34 | 32 | 4.1 | 299 | 38.0 | 455 | 57.9 | 786 |
| 35 - 44 | 23 | 5.4 | 190 | 44.5 | 213 | 49.9 | 426 |
| 45 - 64 | 49 | 9.1 | 240 | 44.4 | 251 | 46.5 | 540 |
| 65 + | 17 | 9.2 | 67 | 36.4 | 99 | 53.8 | 183 |
| Total | 138 | 6.0 | 917 | 39.6 | 1257 | 54.4 | 2312 |

$X^2 = 45.69$ df = 8 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.33

## Importance of Friends and Household Occupancy

| Occupancy | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| With children | 65 | 5.7 | 511 | 44.5 | 572 | 49.8 | 1148 |
| No children | 38 | 6.7 | 233 | 41.2 | 294 | 52.1 | 565 |
| Single parent | 8 | 6.7 | 41 | 34.5 | 70 | 58.8 | 119 |
| Unrelated and other | 29 | 5.9 | 135 | 27.4 | 328 | 66.7 | 492 |
| Total | 140 | 6.0 | 920 | 39.6 | 1264 | 54.4 | 2324 |

$X^2 = 46.53$   df = 6   p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.34

## Importance of Friends and House Size by Number of Occupants

| | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| One | 18 | 6.9 | 74 | 28.6 | 167 | 64.5 | 259 |
| Two | 50 | 6.7 | 272 | 36.6 | 421 | 56.7 | 743 |
| Three | 24 | 5.6 | 166 | 39.1 | 235 | 55.3 | 425 |
| Four | 26 | 5.2 | 236 | 46.8 | 242 | 48.0 | 504 |
| Five | 16 | 7.0 | 105 | 45.7 | 109 | 47.4 | 230 |
| Six and more | 4 | 2.9 | 54 | 38.6 | 82 | 58.6 | 140 |
| Total | 138 | 6.0 | 907 | 39.4 | 1256 | 54.6 | 2301 |

$X^2 = 34.66$ df = 10 p = 0.01

## TABLE 2.35

## Importance of Friends and Length of Residence at Present Address

| | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Less than 1 year | 25 | 5.0 | 181 | 36.1 | 295 | 58.9 | 501 |
| 1 - 5 years | 52 | 5.1 | 399 | 39.5 | 560 | 55.4 | 1011 |
| 6 - 10 years | 17 | 5.5 | 152 | 49.0 | 141 | 45.5 | 310 |
| 10 + years | 46 | 9.1 | 190 | 37.8 | 267 | 53.1 | 503 |
| Total | 140 | 6.0 | 922 | 39.7 | 1263 | 53.1 | 2325 |

$X^2 = 25.93$ df = 6 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

### 2.3.2 The Importance of Church Groups.

The respondents who participated in recreational activities with members of a church group represent the other end of the profile continuum. This group was shown earlier to be distinct in several demographic and status characteristics from participants in the other social settings (refer to section 2.3.10). The majority of the respondents (65.2%), indicated that church groups were "Not important" to their recreation. Thus, the combined percentage of those respondents indicating that church groups were either "Important" or "Somewhat important" was 34.8% or 775 persons.

The following tables show the significant differences existing between the importance respondents give to participation with church groups and their associated personal data. The increase in the number of significant differences determined by chi-square testing is distinctive. The following points arise from these tables:

i) The importance of church groups varies according to the sex of the respondents. Proportionately more females than males regard the church as important to their recreation. (Table 2.36).

ii) The proportion of persons who regard church groups as important increases with age. Thus, age and the importance the respondents give to church groups differ significantly (Table 2.37).

iii) Because of data limitations, it is not possible to establish the association between household age structures and the importance of church groups. Table 2.38 suggests that as the number of children per family increases the importance of the church also increases.

iv) The importance of church groups varies according to the type of household of the respondent (Table 2.39). This is a reflection of the importance of the church to families with children.

v) The importance of church groups varies according to the size of one's household. In general, the larger the household, the more important recreation with church groups is shown to be (Table 2.40).

vi) There is a difference between the respondents' educational attainments and the extent to which they regard church groups as important to their recreation (Table 2.41). Education seems to have some influence on the extent to which a people regard church groups as important. University trained people have the lowest proportion indicating that church groups are important and those with less than high school education have the highest proportion.

vii) The importance of church groups to people's recreational activities varies according to their occupational status. Proportionately more of the Trades people, Middle management and the Self-employed and Professional people have indicated that church groups were not important to them (Table 2.42). The Retired (30.3%), Farmers (23.5%) and Housewives (21.2%) lead the "Important" category.

viii) There is a significant difference between the respondents' place of residence (rural or urban) and the importance they give to recreation with church groups. Proportionately, more rural people feel that recreation with a church group is important.

ix) The type of area in which people reside has a bearing on the importance they give to church groups in their recreation. Small cities and rural areas feel church groups are more important to them than the larger metropolitan areas (Table 2.44).

x) Table 2.45 indicates that as the respondents' length of residence at their present address increases, their dependence on church groups for recreation also increases.

xi) Owners of dwellings rather than renters tend to find church groups more important (Table 2.46).

## TABLE 2.36

## The Importance of Church Groups by Sex of the Respondents

| Sex | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Male | 980 | 68.0 | 320 | 22.2 | 141 | 9.8 | 1441 |
| Female | 459 | 60.6 | 185 | 24.4 | 114 | 15.0 | 758 |
| Total | 1439 | 65.4 | 505 | 23.0 | 255 | 11.6 | 2199 |

$X^2 = 17.08$ df $= 2$ $p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Park Survey

## TABLE 2.37

## The Importance of Church Groups by Age of Repondents

| Age (Years) | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To - 24 | 267 | 73.4 | 72 | 19.8 | 25 | 6.9 | 364 |
| 25 - 34 | 560 | 74.0 | 143 | 18.9 | 54 | 7.1 | 757 |
| 35 - 44 | 260 | 63.3 | 102 | 24.8 | 49 | 11.9 | 411 |
| 45 - 64 | 283 | 56.8 | 142 | 28.5 | 73 | 14.7 | 498 |
| 65 + | 62 | 39.5 | 45 | 28.7 | 50 | 31.8 | 157 |
| Total | 1432 | 65.5 | 504 | 23.0 | 251 | 11.5 | 2187 |

$X^2 = 131.05 \quad df = 8 \quad p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.38

## Importance of Church by Number of Children per Household

### Children Less than Six Years

| Number of Children | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 199 | 67.7 | 67 | 22.8 | 28 | 9.5 | 294 |
| 2 | 105 | 64.4 | 45 | 27.6 | 13 | 8.0 | 163 |
| 3 and more | 14 | 50.0 | 8 | 28.6 | 6 | 21.4 | 28 |
| Total | 318 | 65.6 | 120 | 24.7 | 47 | 9.7 | 485 |

### Children 6 - 17 Years

| Number of Children | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 204 | 63.8 | 86 | 26.9 | 30 | 9.4 | 320 |
| 2 | 155 | 54.8 | 94 | 33.2 | 34 | 12.0 | 283 |
| 3 and more | 71 | 55.5 | 34 | 26.6 | 23 | 18.0 | 128 |
| Total | 430 | 58.8 | 214 | 29.3 | 87 | 11.9 | 731 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.39

### Importance of Church Groups by Type of Household

| Household Type | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| With children | 706 | 64.2 | 276 | 25.1 | 117 | 10.6 | 1099 |
| No children | 355 | 67.7 | 104 | 19.8 | 65 | 12.4 | 524 |
| Single parent | 56 | 51.4 | 37 | 33.9 | 16 | 14.7 | 109 |
| Unrelated & other | 318 | 68.2 | 94 | 20.2 | 54 | 11.6 | 466 |
| Total | 1435 | 65.3 | 511 | 23.2 | 252 | 11.5 | 2198 |

$X^2 = 18.11 \quad df = 6 \quad p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.40

## Importance of Church Groups by Household Size

| Size of household | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| One | 158 | 65.0 | 53 | 21.8 | 32 | 13.2 | 243 |
| Two | 476 | 69.1 | 131 | 19.0 | 82 | 11.9 | 689 |
| Three | 288 | 70.8 | 82 | 20.1 | 37 | 9.1 | 407 |
| Four | 310 | 63.4 | 143 | 29.2 | 36 | 7.4 | 489 |
| Five | 124 | 57.7 | 62 | 28.8 | 29 | 13.5 | 215 |
| Six & more | 66 | 50.4 | 31 | 23.7 | 34 | 25.9 | 131 |
| Total | 1422 | 65.4 | 502 | 23.1 | 250 | 11.5 | 2174 |

$X^2 = 62.24$ df = 10 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.41

### Importance of Church Groups by the Educational Attainment of Respondents

| Education | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Up to and junior high | 121 | 51.5 | 59 | 25.1 | 55 | 23.4 | 235 |
| High school | 456 | 65.8 | 162 | 23.4 | 75 | 10.8 | 693 |
| Technical | 436 | 66.9 | 148 | 22.7 | 68 | 10.4 | 652 |
| University and other | 423 | 67.8 | 143 | 22.9 | 58 | 9.3 | 624 |
| Total | 1436 | 65.2 | 512 | 23.2 | 256 | 11.6 | 2204 |

$X^2 = 40.37$ df = 6 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.42

### Importance of Church Groups and the Occupational Status of Respondents

| Occupation | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Management professionals | 249 | 70.5 | 74 | 21.0 | 30 | 8.5 | 353 |
| Semi professionals/ technicians | 127 | 69.4 | 43 | 23.5 | 13 | 7.1 | 183 |
| Middle management | 120 | 70.2 | 40 | 23.4 | 11 | 6.4 | 171 |
| Supervisors/foremen | 62 | 67.4 | 20 | 21.7 | 10 | 10.9 | 92 |
| Clerical | 232 | 66.3 | 78 | 22.3 | 40 | 11.4 | 350 |
| Trade | 232 | 71.4 | 68 | 20.9 | 25 | 7.7 | 325 |
| Farmers | 39 | 45.9 | 26 | 30.6 | 20 | 23.5 | 85 |
| Laborers | 64 | 67.4 | 21 | 22.1 | 10 | 10.5 | 95 |
| Retired | 57 | 43.2 | 35 | 26.5 | 40 | 30.3 | 132 |
| Housewives | 99 | 51.0 | 54 | 27.8 | 41 | 21.2 | 194 |
| Students/other | 62 | 68.1 | 24 | 26.4 | 5 | 5.5 | 91 |
| Total | 1343 | 64.8 | 483 | 23.4 | 245 | 11.8 | 2071 |

$X^2 = 113.12$  df = 20  $p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.43

### Importance of Church Groups by Location of Residence

| | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Town/city | 1297 | 66.9 | 434 | 22.4 | 208 | 10.7 | 1939 |
| Farm/acreage | 119 | 52.9 | 65 | 28.9 | 41 | 18.2 | 225 |
| Total | 1416 | 65.4 | 499 | 23.1 | 249 | 11.5 | 2164 |

$X^2 = 19.54$ df = 2 p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## Table 2.44

## Importance of Church Groups by Residential Location

| | Not important | | Somewhat important | | Important | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Metro area | 897 | 70.4 | 273 | 21.4 | 105 | 8.2 | 1275 |
| Small city | 164 | 53.8 | 85 | 27.9 | 56 | 18.3 | 305 |
| Other | 357 | 60.4 | 145 | 24.5 | 89 | 15.1 | 591 |
| Total | 1418 | 65.3 | 503 | 23.2 | 250 | 11.5 | 2171 |

$X^2 = 49.02$  df = 4  $p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.45

### Importance of Church Groups by Length of Residence at Present Address

| Length of residence | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| less than 1 year | 341 | 70.6 | 103 | 21.3 | 39 | 8.1 | 483 |
| 1 - 5 years | 664 | 68.5 | 216 | 22.3 | 90 | 9.3 | 970 |
| 6 - 10 years | 182 | 62.5 | 64 | 22.0 | 45 | 15.5 | 291 |
| 11 + years | 251 | 55.3 | 126 | 27.8 | 77 | 17.0 | 454 |
| TOTAL | 1438 | 65.4 | 509 | 23.2 | 251 | 11.4 | 2198 |

$X^2 = 41.3 \quad df = 6 \quad p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

## TABLE 2.46

## The Importance of Church Groups by Household Occupance Status

| Occupance status | Not important N | Not important % | Somewhat important N | Somewhat important % | Important N | Important % | Total N |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Own | 957 | 63.3 | 369 | 24.4 | 187 | 12.3 | 1513 |
| Rent | 464 | 70.2 | 136 | 20.6 | 61 | 9.2 | 661 |
| Total | 1421 | 65.4 | 505 | 23.2 | 248 | 11.4 | 2174 |

$X^2 = 10.21$ df $= 2$ $p = 0.01$

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

### 2.3.3 General Summary

Two settings were examined in the survey to illustrate the importance of each social setting to the respondents. The "friends" setting was selected, since it embraced a large portion of the sample population and was representative of a high rate of response on the importance categories. The "church" setting was also examined as it represented the reverse of the above situation.

Friends, as well as the family, were considered highly important in recreational activities. This was universal to all ages, sexes, marital statuses, economic conditions and geographical settings. It means, then, that the opportunities for recreation are not (or should not be) confined to particular people or particular circumstances. A fuller enquiry should be made to determine whether a recreational emphasis exists in which friends are important.

The same observations are valid for the thirty-five per cent or so who indicated church groups were important to their recreation. However, the restricted scope of the recreation activities here makes the enquiry easier. Nonetheless, two general observations can be made about the church setting. The first point is that participation in church affairs by the general populace is fairly low, but that, in all probability, participation in church recreational activities by that third is relatively high (church provides an important additional function for people who might otherwise not have the opportunity to engage in recreational activities - e.g., the elderly, single parents or housewives). The second point relates to the contribution that external agencies can make to recreation within church organizations. If it is assumed that "recreation with church groups" is limited to the church situation, then it is evident that any inputs will be constrained by the structure, facilities and goals (in terms of recreation) of each religious organization.

## 2.4 Respondents' Dependence on Groups/Agencies to Organize Recreational Activities

Question 9 (see Table 1.1 of this report) attempted to determine, in a fairly general fashion, the extent to which the sample population relies on nine categories of individuals or groups to organize its recreational activities. Table 2.47 is a summary of this information. The following points arise from the table:

i) Three social settings (already discussed) are depended on the most by individuals to organize their recreation. These are oneself (78.4%), the family (47.9%) and friends (29.6%).

ii) When the two top dependence categories are combined (i.e., "Somewhat" and "A great deal"), the following three settings are still the most important - oneself (95.9%), family (87.4%) and friends (89.3%).

iii) Again, when the categories "Somewhat" and "A great deal" are combined, it can be seen that people depend on their employers the least (17.4%), more on private clubs (35.1%), and still more on schools, universities and colleges (38.3%) as well as service groups (40.6%). This is readily understandable, since:

   a) most employers do not directly offer the facilities or the opportunities for recreational activity,

   b) private clubs are beyond the financial reach of many people,

   c) not everyone attends university and college and therefore has access to their facilities,

   d) the anomaly appears to be the service and community groups, in which the contribution might be expected to be decidedly greater.

iv) Commercial facilites organize about 50 per cent of the recreational needs of the sample.

## TABLE 2.47

## Extent to which Various Groups and Individuals Organize Recreational Activities

| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Service groups and other community organizations | 1372 | 59.4 | 763 | 33.0 | 175 | 7.6 | 2310 |
| Municipal parks and recreation depts. or boards | 991 | 42.7 | 1012 | 43.6 | 319 | 13.7 | 2322 |
| Schools, universities, colleges | 1411 | 61.7 | 726 | 31.7 | 151 | 6.6 | 2288 |
| Yourself | 95 | 4.1 | 406 | 17.5 | 1824 | 78.4 | 2325 |
| Your family | 293 | 12.6 | 940 | 40.4 | 1092 | 47.0 | 2325 |
| Your friends | 248 | 10.7 | 1385 | 59.7 | 686 | 29.6 | 2319 |
| Commercial facilities | 1218 | 53.6 | 873 | 38.4 | 183 | 8.0 | 2274 |
| Private clubs | 1490 | 64.8 | 635 | 27.6 | 173 | 7.5 | 2298 |
| Your employer | 1889 | 82.6 | 353 | 15.4 | 45 | 2.0 | 2287 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

v) The respondents depend on municipalities and recreation departments fairly heavily.

Thus, most people depend on themselves and informal groups to organize their recreational activities. In view of this finding, it is unnecessary to review again the characteristics of the respondents in each of the settings (friends, family and yourself). Instead, socio-occupational and geographical characteristics of those respondents who depend on commercial facilities, municipal parks and recreation agencies, and schools, universities and colleges will be examined. The following variables will be examined: age, occupational status, and geographical location.

### 2.4.1 Age

From Table 2.48, the general tendency is clear: as age increases, the dependence on external agencies decreases for those who make use of them occasionally or a great deal. There are two notable exceptions. In the 35-44 age category, there is a sharp increase in dependence on universities to organize recreation. This also occurs with commercial facilities, but only for those who rely on them occasionally.

Apparently, therefore, younger people rely fairly heavily on external agencies. This reliance decreases up to 35 years when there is a slight proportionate increase; then, there is a general decline as people age. The relatively low proportions of respondents involved should be noted again.

According to chi-square testing, there are significant differences between age and the three levels of dependence for the schools, universities and colleges and the commercial agencies, i.e., different dependency levels reflect different age structures. There is no

## TABLE 2.48

## The Age Structure of Participants and Their Levels of Dependence on Three Different Agencies

### Municipal Organizations

| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Up to 24 | 158 | 41.9 | 159 | 42.2 | 60 | 15.9 | 377 |
| 25 - 34 | 346 | 44.0 | 342 | 43.5 | 99 | 12.6 | 787 |
| 35 - 44 | 159 | 37.6 | 199 | 47.0 | 65 | 15.4 | 423 |
| 45 - 64 | 220 | 40.8 | 248 | 46.0 | 71 | 13.2 | 539 |
| 65 and over | 99 | 53.5 | 61 | 33.0 | 25 | 13.5 | 185 |
| Total | 982 | 42.5 | 1009 | 43.7 | 320 | 13.8 | 2311 |

### Schools, Universities and Colleges

| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Up to 24 | 187 | 49.9 | 144 | 38.4 | 44 | 11.7 | 375 |
| 25 - 34 | 477 | 60.8 | 264 | 33.7 | 43 | 5.5 | 784 |
| 35 - 44 | 242 | 57.5 | 148 | 35.2 | 31 | 7.4 | 421 |
| 45 - 64 | 363 | 69.0 | 135 | 25.7 | 28 | 5.3 | 526 |
| 65 and over | 134 | 78.8 | 31 | 18.2 | 5 | 2.9 | 170 |
| Total | 1403 | 61.6 | 722 | 31.7 | 151 | 6.7 | 2276 |

$X^2 = 67.58$; df = 8; p = 0.01

### Commercial Facilities

| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Up to 24 | 167 | 44.9 | 165 | 44.4 | 39 | 10.5 | 371 |
| 25 - 34 | 425 | 54.3 | 291 | 37.2 | 66 | 8.4 | 782 |
| 35 - 44 | 217 | 51.4 | 174 | 41.2 | 31 | 7.3 | 422 |
| 45 - 64 | 292 | 55.8 | 193 | 36.9 | 37 | 7.1 | 522 |
| 65 and over | 114 | 69.5 | 41 | 24.9 | 9 | 5.5 | 164 |
| Total | 1215 | 53.7 | 864 | 38.2 | 182 | 8.1 | 2261 |

$X^2 = 31.64$; df = 8; p = 0.01

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

significant difference at p = 0.01 for the municipal organizations - respondents' ages have little bearing on the extent to which they depend on municipal parks and recreation departments and boards.

### 2.4.2 Occupational Status

Table 2.49 ranks each occupational group's proportionate contribution to each of the three levels of dependence - "Not at all", "Somewhat", "A great deal".

For municipalities:

i) self-employed people are the least dependent, followed by students, employed professionals and foremen;

ii) farm laborers are the most dependent, followed by unskilled clerical and skilled trades; and

iii) there is no general trend through the occupations in their levels of dependence on municipalities.

For universities/colleges:

i) students are obviously the most dependent on this organization;

ii) retired people are the least dependent on schools/universities and colleges;

iii) professional and skilled people seem to be dependent on this organization, but this is not general to all skills and professions; and

iv) this ordering bears little similarity to trends occurring for municipalities.

## TABLE 2.49

### Rank Order of Occupational Groups by Levels of Dependence
(Rank Order by Proportion of Each Occupation)

| Occupation | Municipalities | | | | | | Universities/Colleges | | | | | | Commercial | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | |
| | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank |
| Self-employed | 64.3 | 1 | 21.9 | 20 | 14.3 | 10 | 64.3 | 8 | 28.6 | 14 | 7.1 | 7 | 61.5 | 3 | 30.8 | 17 | 7.7 | 10 |
| Employed professional | 50.5 | 4 | 41.2 | 13 | 8.4 | 20 | 60.6 | 13 | 33.6 | 7 | 5.9 | 10 | 59.5 | 5 | 33.8 | 15 | 6.8 | 12 |
| High management | 40.5 | 14 | 45.2 | 10 | 14.3 | 9 | 70.7 | 4 | 22.0 | 17 | 7.3 | 6 | 48.8 | 16 | 41.5 | 7 | 9.8 | 5 |
| Semi-professional | 33.0 | 18 | 53.6 | 2 | 13.4 | 12 | 50.0 | 19 | 44.8 | 2 | 5.2 | 13 | 50.0 | 12 | 40.8 | 8 | 9.2 | 9 |
| Technicians | 35.9 | 17 | 52.2 | 3 | 12.0 | 16 | 61.5 | 12 | 34.1 | 6 | 4.4 | 17 | 51.6 | 11 | 41.8 | 6 | 6.6 | 14 |
| Middle management | 42.0 | 11 | 45.9 | 8 | 12.2 | 15 | 63.5 | 10 | 31.5 | 8 | 5.1 | 14 | 41.9 | 18 | 45.8 | 4 | 12.3 | 1 |
| Supervisors | 32.8 | 19 | 51.7 | 4 | 15.5 | 8 | 73.3 | 3 | 21.7 | 18 | 5.0 | 15 | 41.7 | 19 | 46.7 | 2 | 11.7 | 2 |
| Foremen | 48.4 | 5 | 41.9 | 12 | 9.7 | 19 | 67.7 | 7 | 25.8 | 15 | 6.5 | 9 | 40.0 | 20 | 53.3 | 1 | 6.7 | 13 |
| Skilled clerical | 41.8 | 12 | 40.2 | 15 | 18.0 | 6 | 60.4 | 14 | 29.2 | 13 | 10.4 | 2 | 49.2 | 15 | 40.7 | 9 | 10.1 | 4 |
| Skilled trades | 36.3 | 16 | 44.4 | 11 | 19.2 | 3 | 62.4 | 11 | 29.9 | 11 | 7.7 | 5 | 49.3 | 14 | 40.0 | 10 | 10.2 | 3 |
| Farmers | 44.2 | 8 | 45.3 | 9 | 10.5 | 17 | 56.4 | 17 | 38.3 | 5 | 5.3 | 12 | 50.0 | 13 | 45.7 | 5 | 4.3 | 19 |
| Semi-skilled clerical | 41.8 | 13 | 45.9 | 7 | 12.3 | 13 | 52.1 | 18 | 42.1 | 3 | 5.8 | 11 | 47.9 | 17 | 46.3 | 3 | 5.8 | 16 |
| Semi-skilled trades | 42.6 | 9 | 38.6 | 16 | 18.8 | 4 | 70.0 | 5 | 25.0 | 16 | 5.0 | 16 | 54.0 | 9 | 40.0 | 11 | 6.0 | 15 |
| Unskilled clerical | 48.1 | 6 | 32.7 | 18 | 19.2 | 2 | 58.8 | 16 | 31.4 | 9 | 9.8 | 4 | 60.8 | 4 | 29.4 | 18 | 9.8 | 6 |
| Unskilled labor | 42.4 | 10 | 47.5 | 6 | 10.1 | 18 | 69.1 | 6 | 29.9 | 10 | 1.0 | 18 | 56.8 | 8 | 33.7 | 16 | 9.5 | 8 |
| Farm labor | 0.0 | 20 | 60.0 | 1 | 40.0 | 1 | 60.0 | 15 | 40.0 | 4 | 0.0 | 20 | 75.0 | 1 | 25.0 | 20 | 0.0 | 20 |
| Students | 50.7 | 3 | 37.0 | 17 | 12.3 | 14 | 27.4 | 20 | 46.6 | 1 | 26.0 | 1 | 52.1 | 10 | 38.4 | 12 | 9.6 | 7 |
| Retired | 45.8 | 7 | 40.5 | 14 | 13.7 | 11 | 79.0 | 1 | 20.3 | 19 | 0.7 | 19 | 68.8 | 2 | 25.4 | 9 | 5.1 | 17 |
| Housewives | 36.7 | 15 | 47.7 | 5 | 15.6 | 7 | 63.8 | 9 | 29.6 | 12 | 6.6 | 8 | 57.7 | 7 | 34.7 | 14 | 7.1 | 11 |
| Others | 54.5 | 2 | 27.3 | 19 | 18.2 | 5 | 75.0 | 2 | 15.0 | 20 | 10.0 | 3 | 59.1 | 6 | 36.4 | 13 | 4.5 | 18 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

For commercial enterprises:

i) farm laborers, the retired and the self employed are least dependent on commercial facilities;

ii) middle management, supervisors and foremen are the most dependent; and

iii) again, there is no distinct grouping of occupational types and levels of dependence.

Overall, the most consistant relationships are shown with students and farm laborers (though the numbers are small) and with management and the self-employed.

### 2.4.3 Geographical (by region)

The locations of the respondents' places of residence was selected as the third discrimination variable. It was shown earlier that responses often varied with the location of people's places of residence. From Table 2.50, the following observations can be made even though chi-square testing showed no significant associations between location and levels of dependence for each of the three organizations.

For municipal parks and recreation agencies:

i) in general, the proportionate distribution of each location remains the same at each level of dependency. Thus, slightly more than 40 per cent of each locational category responded "Not at all" and around 13 per cent "A great deal";

ii) there is still some variation within these proportions. Rural people depend on municipal agencies proportionately the most; however, these agencies are mostly "Somewhat important" to them. Metropolitan areas have the highest proportion of people who depend on municipalities "A great deal"; and

## TABLE 2.50

### Levels of Dependence and Geographical Location of Respondents

| | Not at all | | Somewhat | | A great deal | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Municipalities | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan area | 570 | 58.7 | 584 | 58.1 | 191 | 61.2 | 1345 |
| Small city | 143 | 14.7 | 139 | 13.8 | 45 | 14.4 | 327 |
| Rural | 258 | 26.6 | 282 | 28.1 | 76 | 24.4 | 616 |
| Total | 971 | 100.0 | 1005 | 100.0 | 312 | 100.0 | 2288 |
| Universities/ colleges | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan area | 999 | 57.6 | 421 | 58.8 | 101 | 66.0 | 1521 |
| Small city | 197 | 14.2 | 108 | 15.1 | 22 | 14.4 | 327 |
| Rural | 391 | 28.2 | 187 | 26.1 | 30 | 19.6 | 608 |
| Total | 1587 | 100.0 | 716 | 100.0 | 153 | 100.0 | 2456 |
| Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan area | 711 | 59.4 | 501 | 58.1 | 111 | 61.3 | 1323 |
| Small city | 155 | 12.9 | 129 | 15.0 | 32 | 17.7 | 316 |
| Rural | 331 | 27.7 | 232 | 26.9 | 38 | 21.0 | 601 |
| Total | 1197 | 100.0 | 862 | 100.0 | 181 | 100.0 | 2240 |

Source: Recreation and Parks Survey

iii) metro-areas dominate in each of the three categories of dependency; they are followed by rural areas and then small cities. This is to be expected from the sample distribution of locations.

For universities/colleges:

i) in comparison to municipal agencies, a much higher proportion of people in each category do not depend on universities/colleges;

ii) rural areas depend on universities/colleges the least and metro areas the most;

iii) metro areas have the highest proportion of responses in the "A great deal" category;

iv) in the responses by all locations to "A great deal", metropolitan areas far exceed the others with 66% of the total response; and

v) metropolitan areas dominate in each of the three categories of dependency; and again, they are followed by rural areas and then the small cities.

For commercial facilities:

i) rural areas depend on commercial facilities the least, followed by metropolitan areas and then small cities; small cities, therefore, depend on commercial facilities the most;

ii) small cities also have the greatest dependence ("A great deal") on these facilities, and lead in the "Somewhat" category;

iii) rural areas are proportionately "Somewhat" more dependent than metropolitan areas; metropolitan areas are more dependent in the "A great deal" category; and

iv) in all dependency levels, metropolitan areas are proportionately greater than the other two, registering around 60 per cent in each category.

### 2.4.4 General Summary

i) Apart from the informal groups of family, friends and yourself, people do not depend on the remaining six categories to any large extent - municipal park and recreation agencies are the most important of these and employers the least important.

ii) Apart from the "yourself" setting, most people do not depend very strongly on any setting.

iii) The above two findings are very important. They mean that the organizations which have been concerned with the formal organization of recreation have been either

  a) relatively ineffectual in encouraging people to use their services, or,

  b) unable to provide services which people want or seek.

iv) Universities/colleges, private clubs and commercial facilities may exclude people by cost and accessibility. Probably, few employers offer facilities for recreation.

v) Three settings (not used extensively) have been examined with respect to the ages, occupations and locations of their respondents. It is evident that

a) as people get older, they depend less on external agencies to organize their recreation, and

b) there are no general tendencies throughout the three settings examined, except for occupational statuses; in other words, the occupational statuses of the respondents seem peculiar to each situation, e.g., students are most dependent on universities/colleges.

vi) The same observation applies to residential locations: municipal recreation agencies are important to rural people, while people in small cities (Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer) depend most on commercial facilities.

# PART TWO

## LITERATURE REVIEW[1]

### 1.0 Introduction

This review will examine the role of social settings[2] and social interaction in leisure participation. As such, it is made up of four sections. The first section looks at the relationship between social groups and leisure participation. The second section examines social interaction as a motivation and satisfaction in leisure. The third section outlines the benefits of social interaction. The last section looks at the influence of the family life cycle on recreation participation in various types of social groups.

### 2.0 Leisure Participation and Social Groups

One particular body of research has centered on the social group as a setting for leisure behaviour. Cheek *et al.* (1976) note that one of the main elements of leisure is that it most often occurs in a group setting. They suggest that this is different from other institutions in society (e.g., work, school, church) in which individuals participate in tasks or activities by themselves. Their research supports two major theories:

(1) much leisure and recreation activity is in the presence of other persons;
(2) some satisfaction may be received from the activity that comes from group interaction (Cheek *et al.*, 1976:11)

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[1] This literature review has been prepared by Planning Support Branch staff.

[2] For the purposes of this review, the term "social groups" will be used to mean "social settings".

Other researches by Cheek et al. (1976) and Cheek and Bruch (1976) indicate that the types of social groups in which people recreate are usually primary groups such as family or friends. A study by Field (1973) indicates the findings in this area. He examines the social group composition of those participating in various leisure settings. Of all groups, the family unit is the most prevalent in all recreation places, making up a minimum of forty percent of all participating social units. The next two important social groups are "with friends" and "family and friends". People are less likely to participate alone in most of the settings, with the exception of the home or neighborhood setting where there is some tendency for them to participate in recreation activities by themselves.

In addition, Kelly's (1978) study of adults in three U.S. towns shows that 95 percent of recreation activities are done with another person. Of these, over 70 percent are with members of the family and 25 percent with others (e.g., friends, neighbours and work mates). Few recreation activities tend to be done alone; those that are consist of such home-centred activities as reading, watching T.V., and gardening.

There is also evidence to suggest that this preference for informal social participation in primary groups is a relatively unchanging phenomenon. Cheek and Burch (1976) cite a study by Duncan, Schuman and Duncan (1973), which compares the 1950 survey data to a replicated 1971 survey data of the Detroit metropolitan area. They find changes of attitude in many social issues, but observe similarity in social participation rates in various groups over the time period.

Cheek et al. (1976) and Cheek and Burch (1976) have also looked at the influence of the social group on recreation participation. These authors contend that the composition of the social group can influence the type of activity chosen, the manner of participation and the choice of area where participation takes place.

Studies by Kelly (1978) and Yancey, Britt and Snell (1971) suggest that different social configurations (i.e., family, friends, alone) are more attracted to certain recreation activities over others. Similarly, Field's (1973) study showed that some social groups are drawn to some recreation settings (e.g., neighborhoods, parks, beaches) over others.

Notwithstanding these findings, Cheek and Burch (1976) note that there is still a great deal of overlap in the choice of activity or setting by the various groups. In other words, a family group and a friendship group may still choose the same recreation setting but may obtain different meanings from their participation. They suggest that it is not the activity or recreation locale that is the determining factor in participation. Rather, it is the group's perception of whether the activity or locale will satisfy the group's particular need for social interaction. Cheek and Burch (1976:117) note that "the nature of an activity and its setting seem less important than the interaction opportunities for the participating group."

Cheek et al. (1976) cite the researches of O'Leary et al. (1974), which suggest that a given group in a locale may have a variety of activities that they may wish to participate in and that these activities can be considered substitutable or interchangable:

> For example, a family on a beach may select to walk, collect, swim, eat, observe nature or other alternatives. They may participate in one, two, three or all of these activities, but the loss of any one will not necessarily detract from the outing (Cheek et al. 1976:25)

Should the group change (i.e., from a family to a friendship group), then the set activities or the locale may (or may not) change depending on the particular objectives of the group. Check et al conclude, therefore, that the activity acts as a catylyst or facilitator for the group to interact with one another. For each type of group, certain types of activities or locales may be better suited for the particular interaction that is desired.

The research of Buchanan et al (1981:264) provides additional evidence that different groups obtain different sets of meanings and satisfactions from the same recreation activity. These researchers note that this may have definite implications for the practitioners:

> It may be possible to develop, plan, and manage recreation opportunities in such a way as to attract a specific type of recreation user. Agencies charged with providing "family oriented" recreation opportunities might design and manage a resource in such a way as to maximize those experiences most highly desired by family groups. Development of swimming areas, for example, may not be sufficient. Developing and designing swimming areas which promote experiences desired by one particular type of social group might be a better strategy.

In summary, to understand recreation participation, it may not be enough just to know the type of recreation activity or locale; it may also be necessary to understand the configuration of the groups that participate. Evidence suggests that the group has an influence on recreation participation. This implies that in addition to supplying recreation activities and facilities, recreation practitioners should obtain information about the make-up of client groups and their particular needs. This information can be used to design and manage programs that provide social interaction opportunities which cater to these specific social groups.

## 3.0 Social Interaction as a Motivation and Satifaction in Leisure

The previous section indicated the importance of social interaction to various primary groups and suggested that it might be more important than even the recreational activity or leisure place to the participating group. This section explores this apparent "need" for social interaction at the individual level and looks at the various ways in which this need may be satisfied. An emerging body of research has looked at the social nature of leisure in terms of certain satisfactions leisure provides to recreation participants (Crandall, 1979; Crandall et al, 1980; London, Crandall and Fitzgibbons, 1977; London, Crandall, and Seals, 1977).

Crandall et al (1980:285) classify social interaction in leisure in two ways:

> Pure "social leisure," such as visiting friends and going to parties, involves social behavior done for its own sake without other motivations. In addition to being a leisure activity in itself, social contact can be a motivation for participation in, or a source of satisfaction from, other apparently nonsocial leisure activities.

These authors contend that a number of activities such as the following may be considered social leisure:

1. social visiting
2. mixers and parties
3. social drug use
4. family leisure
5. participation in voluntary organizations

There are a number of motivations for participation in leisure activities that can be considered social in nature. For example, of the seventeen types of leisure motivations developed by Crandall and associates, several are social in nature. These are: general social contact, meeting new people, heterosexual contact, family contact, recognition or status, altruism, and social power (Crandall et al., 1980)

A number of studies have shown that social interaction as a motivation (or satisfaction) is a definite component of a variety of leisure activities (Crandall, 1979; London, Crandall and Fitzgibbons, 1977; Neulinger and Raps, 1972; and Ritchie, 1975). These include activities that seem to be done primarily to satisfy other needs (e.g., team sports, arts and crafts, outdoor recreation). Iso-Ahola (1980:242) suggests two reasons why social interaction is an important component of leisure. First, leisure is normally organized in groups and second, people often obtain "feelings of interpersonal competence" through social interaction.

A study by Crandall (1979) provides much support for the theory that social interaction is an important aspect of most leisure activities. He examines a number of factors to measure their contribution to the quality of leisure satisfaction. His findings show that the social leisure items are second only to the 'amount of time and income items' in terms of a correlation with total satisfaction. These are followed by outdoor places, sport and recreation facilities, and entertainment media. Iso-Ahola (1980:243) notes that these findings could be significant to recreation practitioners:

> An important finding was that the subjects' feelings about the social aspects of leisure were equally as or even more important than such often - stressed aspects as feelings about sports and recreation facilities. This implies that people are as much (if not more) concerned about social interaction during their leisure participation as they are about recreational facilities. Yet the main emphasis is still placed upon facility management when leisure services are provided.

Another section of Crandall's (1979) study relates various attitudes about social interaction with leisure factors. He finds that "the things you do and the times you have with your friends" have the greatest relationship with the leisure items. Crandall (1979:176) suggests that "the best activities seem to be those which involve both friendly interaction and an activity".

Research, therefore, indicates that social interaction is a motivational component in many leisure activities. People may participate in recreational activities for many reasons, but one factor in most cases is the people's expectation of enjoying the interaction with other people. Therefore, it seems that recreation practitioners will have the most success if they take the social component of leisure into consideration in designing and managing programs, facilities and parks (Crandall 1979, Iso-Ahola, 1980).

This is not to say that the social component of leisure is equal in all activities. Crandall (1979) believes that activities may, in fact, sit on a continuum in terms of the degree to which they provide opportunities for social contact. People may also perceive activities differently in terms of the amount of social interaction that they provide. The same activity that satisfies social interaction needs in one person may not in another (London, Crandall and Fitzgibbons, 1977). One implication of this is that it may be useful to know the type and amount of social interaction that people desire in their leisure activities. Therefore, recreation practitioners should be aware of the ways to provide social interaction opportunities in the necessary amounts to satisfy their clients. Crandall (1979:177) notes:

> The success of many programs or facilities may depend more on their ability to bring compatible people together than on their programming and facilities. In many cases activities and programs could be designed to systematically encourage or discourage social contact in leisure or to be taken directly to existing social groups in the community.

## 4.0 Benefits of Social Interaction

Crandall et al. (1980) indicate that a number of benefits can be derived from social contact during leisure. One such benefit is the social stimulation that is aroused through social contact with other people. Social contact during leisure can also provide an important source of information for individuals. Many recreation activities, particularly those involving competition, provide people with an unique way of finding out about their skills by comparing their own abilities with those of others.

Another benefit of social interaction is evident in familial relations. Orthner (1980) has found that depending on the particular family and its orientation, participation in leisure activities with family members can be an important source of family stability and quality of life.

Crandall et al. (1980) indicate that much research has been done to suggest that social interaction contributes to people's mental and physical health. Moreover, social interaction is of some importance to the well-being of the elderly.

There is much evidence to suggest that social interaction contributes substantially to people's perception of their quality of life. Iso-Ahola's (1980) review of studies in this area indicates that two of the main contributors to people's happiness is their satisfaction with their family or with their friends and social life. Iso-Ahola (1980:394) notes that there is little doubt of the importance of social interaction in people's lives:

> The fact remains that interpersonal relations in one form or another constitute the fundamental pillar of happiness and life satisfaction.

## 5.0 Social Groups and the Family Life Cycle

A review of the research literature indicates that few factors have been found to correlate with participation in certain social groups, with the important exception of the family life cycle variables. These consist of such factors as age, marital status and presence of children in the household. This line of research indicates that certain social groups take on more emphasis in leisure activities as people move through their life cycle. As Kelly (1983:37) notes, "the family life cycle affects not only what is done, but why and with whom."

Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) and Kelly (1978, 1983) have done extensive research in this area. Both advocate the family life cycle model, which explains changes in attitudes and behaviour throughout people's lives. This framework proposes that people go through critical life-stages (e.g., schooling, marriage, children's birth, etc.) and that there are certain social roles and interests that correspond to these stages. These life-stages provide points at which reorganization of roles and values occur around the three planes of work, family and leisure:

> For example, when an individual marries, his patterns of heterosexual and family relationships, his orientation to work and career, his pattern of involvement in peer group activities and his other life interests are all likely to be affected. (Rapoport and Rapoport, 1975:20-21).

Certain socio-economic and demographic factors as well as cultural and societal influences may also affect the outcome of lifestyle changes at these critical life-stage points.

Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) identify four major life phases: adolescence, young adulthood, the establishment phase and retirement. At each of these phases, different preoccupations may take on more meaning than others. Included in these are interests in different types of social groups. The following section will be based on Rapoport and Rapoport's (1975) findings on these life-stages.

Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) consider the adolescent stage (between 15 and 19 years of age) as a time when individuals are seeking identity and independence. One of the main preoccupations of adolescents is socialility and interaction with friends and peer groups. In these groups, youth explore and experience the various elements of the environment, including relationships with the opposite sex, drugs and alcohol, part-time jobs, and different modes of entertainment and fashion. Adolescents find both social support and peer pressure in these groups. These adolescents generally seek to break away from old childhood roles and establish a new form of relationship with their families in which they are treated as independent and self-determining persons. Nevertheless, Rapoport and Rapoport note that there is still a definite need for social interaction and support from the family, albeit in a newly defined role.

The young adult stage covers the period from the time people leave school up to their marriage (ranging from age 16-19 to 26-29). In this stage, people tend to identify themselves with social institutions such as work or marriage and are also concerned with intimacy and commitment. These preoccupations are expressed in four sets of interests: occupational interests, interest in forming relationships with persons of the opposite sex, parental-family interests, and friendship interests.

Friendship interests are important to young adults, particularly in the context of associating with social institutions. This may be a period of change in the types of friendships as young adults become involved in their occupation, community work, and relationships with members of the opposite sex. Old friendships may be dropped in favour of those that are associated with the institutions to which the young adults now belong. In fact, friendships may often be instrumental in preparing and socializing young people to enter into adult organizations. Rapoport and Rapoport (1975:180) note:

> Friends introduce one to activities, organizations and people whom they know. Friends coach one in the kind of knowledge, skills and behaviour that will be necessary to make one's way in an organization whether it is a matter of the rather subtle aspects of being liked and accepted, or the more mundane matters of how one makes reservations or other arrangements to be able to use facilities, or even to know that they exist.

Furthermore, friends often provide social support to young people in the urban environment, taking over the role previously provided by kin and community, particularly in rural areas.

Many young adults (particularly men and those in professions and skilled trades) place some value on friendships made at their jobs. These friendships enable them to become socialized into the norms and values of occupations. Much of the social interaction between those in work peer groups is done during leisure time and is influential in promoting professional competence.

Heterosexual relationships are paramount at this stage. This is a period that takes in dating, courtship and eventually marriage. Leisure activity often centres around meeting and socializing with members of the opposite sex. Longer lasting and more serious relationships are also important at this stage. Much of the leisure time of young adults is often spent with spouses. Some couples may in fact become so involved with doing things together at this stage that they isolate themselves and block out other former interests.

Many young adults also attempt to re-establish ties with parents, siblings and other relatives at this stage and do this in the context of leisure activities.

Other studies on single people indicate similar findings. For example, Shaver and Freedman (1976) find that the four important items related to general happiness for single people are: friends and social life, job or primary activity, being in love, and recognition or success. Haavio-Mannila (1971) also finds that, in comparison to married people, single people place more importance on their occupations and leisure activities as contributing to life satisfaction. Kelly's (1978) study also finds that single people have more of a tendency than married people and parents to participate in leisure activities by themselves or with friends, neighbours or workmates. Younger people are also less likely to participate in activities around the home. Married couples with no children, on the other hand, spend much of their leisure time with each other.

The establishment phase of the life cycle consists of the period between 25 and 55 years of age and is a time of commitment and investment in certain areas of people's lives. Rapoport and Rapoport delineate this phase into three sub-phases: early establishment (pre-school children) , mid-establishment (children at school), and late establishment (children out of school).

The early establishment phase finds couples concerned with productivity at work and home-making. Much leisure activity for both men and women centres around upgrading and maintaining the home environment and spending time with their spouses and children. Children are important in this sub-phase and much leisure time at home is centred on playing and interacting with them.

The mid-establishment phase shows some stability in people's lifestyles as they become established with respect to work, home, and the raising of children. At this stage, people are concerned with performing their already established roles effectively at work, at home, or in the community. This is a significant time for people to participate with the family and the many activities that centre around the home. Rapoport and Rapoport (1975:210) note:

> It is in this period that there is a peak in family-centred activities both at home such as television-viewing and gardening and outside - such as in holidays, trips and excursions. Participation in activities that are pursued on an individual basis now drops off in favour of activities that can be carried out as a family.

The authors note, however, that this may also be a time of stress and tension for both husband and wife, since obligations of the job and home-making provide little time for communication amongst members of the family. They note that leisure time may offer a time to resolve some of the issues and problems that arise. However, this may also present a different type of problem in resolving how and with whom leisure time is going to be spent:

> The challenge that seems to face most families is how to evolve a pattern of activities and gratifications in their free and holiday time that will allow a mutually acceptable combination of shared and independent pursuit of enjoyment (Rapoport and Rapoport, 1975:216).

The late establishment phase when children are out of school represents a time of restlessness and revision when people start to evaluate their lives and either contemplate or go through some form of change. This period usually occurs somewhere between the late thirties and early fifties. This may be a time of renewed interest in doing things together as a couple. Many leisure activites may be developed and may include those which have been put off earlier in life. Grandchildren may also become an important interest at this stage.

In looking at the overall establishment phase, Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) note that, at this stage, there is a great emphasis on establishing family networks. The obvious and most important relationship is between parents and children but other integral links also extend to grandparents, siblings, cousins and their children. The other main phenomenon that occurs at this stage is the emphasis on activities that occur around the home.

Kelly (1983) has also examined the tendencies of people in the establishment phase as they affect the three areas of work, family and leisure. Kelly (1983:71) notes that work is largely instrumental at this stage for most workers and states that "the primary meaning of such work is its contribution to the more immediate productive areas of life, home and family". Although people do have friends at work and may associate informally with them during the job, social interaction during leisure time is not a regular occurrence for most workers. Rather, he suggests, emphasis is on family and community activities during leisure. Kelly (1983:72) maintains that the family "is the focus of meaning for most adults" and that "leisure becomes familial for parents in time allocations, locales, associations and meanings".

The retirement phase of people's lives deals with the period following the age of 55. This is a stage when people look for meaning and perspective in their lives and is a time of social and personal integration. Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) identify three phases of this later life: pre-retirement, retirement and old age. During the period of pre-retirement and retirement, many find a renewal of relationships with members of their family. Children have usually left home by this time and new relationships are often formed with children and grandchildren.

In addition, there is some indication that this period may provide more satisfactory interaction to married couples than the previous period when spouses were occupied with the strains of raising children as well as career and home pressures (Kelly, 1983). Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) note, however, that this period may also bring marital estrangement between spouses. In any event, the change to being a couple again usually takes some adjustment within the newly found leisure time of retirement (Kelly, 1983).

Kelly (1983) observes that relationships with the family provide a source of identity and fulfilment as well as social support and help at this stage. Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) note a tendency to believe that older people suffer from isolation from their kin. However, research has shown that many families do make a point of living close to their parents and supporting them socially and otherwise.

Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) distinguish the last sub-phase of this period as old age which takes in the over 75 age group. This is a period of life that shows the worst negative impact both physically and mentally. People in this stage often have to deal with emotions associated with loneliness, isolation, and uselessness. Many lose their spouses or good friends and there may also be physical or mental problems associated with old age that prevent them from seeing their children and grandchildren as much as they like. Kelly (1983) notes that it is important to restore some form of close relationship with people at this time. Often, non-relatives and friends fill this gap:

> ...when an older person is left alone, the support and interaction security of intimacy must be recovered in some way in order to maintain viable life. For example, widows may develop such support networks with other widows that supplement or even replace the loss of the nuclear family when the spouse dies and adult children have established their own families. A variety of relationships may become quasi-families with mutual support that is mingled with scheduled and informal social interaction (Kelly, 1983:84).

Bull (1979) also notes that visits by friends and neighbours can fulfil an important need for social interaction for the widowed elderly.

At this stage of life, interpersonal relationships take on added importance and are a way of preventing the debilitating effects of loneliness and isolation. Iso-Ahola (198:243) cites studies by Graney (1975) and Shulz (1976) that show "that physical and psychological well-being of old persons depends on their opportunities for social interaction". Bull (1979) notes that "visiting" is an important activity of the aged, whereas social isolation can be damaging.

Iso-Ahola (1980) observes that institutionalized settings for the aged often lack opportunities for social interaction and self-determination. This results in a decline in the mental and physical welfare of the residents. Rapoport and Rapoport (1975) suggest that the optimum form of institution should provide various recreational amenities and opportunities for socializing for the elderly and should be situated in communities close to family and friends.

In summary, people place importance on various social groups throughout their life cycles. Individuals have preoccupations and interests that conform to certain life stages and these interests often place emphasis on certain social groups. As people move through their life cycle, circumstances change, interests change, and social groups take on different degrees of significance. Recreation practitioners should be aware of some of these important transition points, so that they can provide programs and services that conform to life interests and meet the needs of those social groups that are significant at the various stages.

## PART THREE

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Although there are some variations numerically, most people participate in at least one of the social settings examined in the survey. Therefore, those organizations concerned with the provision and planning of recreational facilities and programs should be cognizant of the structure and composition of their target populations.

2.0 However, except in one case and perhaps two, the settings investigated here are not that distinct from one another and from the sample population responding to the survey. As the sample was a fair representation of the Albertan population, it is possible, depending on the recreational program under review, to blanket the province to effectively reach and inform those who may use the service or facility.

3.0 From 2.0, it is evident that it is equally possible to reach or provide facilities on a provincial basis, by targeting particular subgroups, e.g., an age or occupational category, regardless of the setting.

4.0 These observations do not apply to the religious and probably to the worker settings. Both these settings are much smaller numerically than the others and although there is no evidence to show that they are more concentrated geographically, a special effort will be required to provide services for these people.

5.0 Attention must be paid to particular groups within each of the social settings, if greater participation of these groups is desired or if their opinions about programs and facilities are later sought. Obvious groups arising from the discussion are: the elderly in all settings, the single parents, the housewives, and certain occupational categories such as the retired, the farmers, the farm laborers and the employed professionals. All of these in certain respects proved distinctive at one time or another in the discussion.

6.0 The respondents have indicated that the settings varied in importance to them. The notable category here is "Somewhat important". Every setting was strong on this level of importance - particularly the three settings "self", "workers", and "friends". This suggests that

i) the settings cannot be relied on to cater completely to individuals' recreation,

ii) it may be difficult to improve the individuals' interaction with each setting, and

iii) it may prove difficult to use the settings for developing new programs of recreational activity and for acquiring feedback on existing ones.

It is recommended, therefore, that the information on importance of settings be further analyzed and related to particular activities. For example, since friends are important to younger people and singles, the activities in which these engage may prove helpful in developing new and expanding existing programs.

7.0 The church and worker settings offer opportunities to target specific populations. These should be used where practicable to improve levels of importance, if such improvement is desired.

8.0 The settings in which people in Alberta participate the most in recreational activities are also the ones on which they are most dependent - family, friends and self. Attention should, therefore, be paid to the function, organization and utility of the remaining organizations and especially those that are municipal and quasi-municipal. These latter organizations have fairly low dependency levels which bring into contention the significance of their existence in a time of economic restraint. It is recommended that scientific marketing programs be developed and implemented by the concerned organizations.

9.0 In view of the above finding, more reliance may be given by the Department to the private organizations by way of advice, research and marketing.

10.0 Points 8 and 9 must be tempered by the fact that the types of activities people participate in are not known. It is recommended that

i) the activities and levels of dependency be related to people, or

ii) a more restricted definition of recreation be provided, or

iii) discrete groups of participants be studied for their settings and levels of dependence.

11.0 Research suggests that people fail to participate sometimes through a lack of awareness. It is recommended that information about where facilities occur, how they can be utilized and how information can be obtained should be provided for all ages and statuses by recreation service providers or organizations.

12.0 If the goal is participation, more use must be made of social (group) motives given the existence of these social settings.

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